



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

No. 154

## Senate

(*Legislative day of Tuesday, September 16, 2025*)

The Senate met at 11 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable JAMES C. JUSTICE, a Senator from the State of West Virginia.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, thank You for Your sanctifying truth. Use our lawmakers to live Your truth for the glory of Your Name. May Your truth enable us to strive to have a strong faith, a pure love, and a focused obedience. Lord, empower us to submit to You with our bodies, minds, and spirits. Make us all vessels of honor; prepare for every good work. And, Lord, as the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashana, approaches, may all people of faith chase the fruit of Your mercy and grace. Lead us to reflection, repentance, and renewal.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, September 19, 2025.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMES C. JUSTICE, a

Senator from the State of West Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. JUSTICE thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

### RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, what I am going to say is, remember the history of Putin saying 20 years ago that the breakup of the Soviet Union was a geopolitical disaster of the 20th century and that Putin's goal was to reestablish the Soviet Empire; and we see that going on every day with how he is destroying Ukraine.

So everyone interested in religious freedom in Russia and Ukraine should read the recent report by the Free Russia Foundation. The Free Russia Foundation is an organization of Russians who wants a "free, democratic, peaceful and prosperous Russia reintegrated into the international community as a constructive and positive actor."

This organization's recent report, entitled "The Russian Orthodox Church and the War," demonstrates how this church body supports the ongoing invasion of Ukraine through propaganda, rituals for the invaders, diplomatic manipulation, and espionage. Now, doesn't that seem very odd for a church—any church—to have that as goals?

The Russian Orthodox Church is also actively engaged in suppressing and persecuting other Christian denominations, including Orthodox believers who do not answer to Russia.

It seems shocking to me to see Russians talk about the main Christian denomination in Russia in this way, but remember this: After initially persecuting Orthodox believers, dictator Joseph Stalin co-opted the Russian Orthodox Church to support the Soviet state. At that time, the Russian Ortho-

dox faithful outside of Russia broke all ties with the Soviet-installed patriarch. Today's Russian Orthodox Church is dominated by leaders who came of age under the KGB-controlled church structure. Now understand this: The current patriarch of Moscow was a KGB agent, so it is no wonder that he is close to Putin.

The Free Russia report documents the Moscow patriarch's blessing of the brutal Russian invasion of Ukraine. It quotes the patriarch's September 2022 sermon:

Anyone who dies in the performance of military duty sacrifices himself for the sake of others. Therefore, we believe that such a sacrifice washes away all sins previously committed.

Now, as a Christian—and, I hope, for any Christian—I find that shocking. So does the ecumenical patriarch of Constantinople, the first among equals in the Orthodox tradition.

He said of the Moscow patriarch's support for Putin and his war:

It is damaging to the prestige of the whole of Orthodoxy because Orthodoxy doesn't support war, violence [or] terrorism.

There has been a lot of propaganda claiming that the Russian Orthodox Church is somehow a victim of religious persecution in this war. In fact, it is a leading perpetrator of the persecution of fellow Orthodox believers, evangelicals, and other churches. I had a chance to meet a year ago with 30 church leaders from Ukraine who told how this persecution was going on.

Don't take my word for it, though. Read this report that I have quoted from by these pro-democracy Russians.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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



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The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the House has just passed a short-term, clean, nonpartisan continuing resolution to fund the government for a few additional weeks while we continue bipartisan work on appropriations bills, and, today, we will be voting on that clean, nonpartisan CR as well as on the CR the Democrats introduced Wednesday night.

On the floor yesterday, the Democrat leader said: The contrast between the Republican bill and the Democrat bill is glaring.

Well, he has got that right. The contrast between the Republican bill and the Democrat bill is glaring. The Republican bill is a clean, nonpartisan, short-term continuing resolution to fund the government to give us time to do the full appropriations process, and the Democrat bill is the exact opposite. It is what you might call not a clean CR—a dirty CR—laden down with partisan policies and appeals to the Democrats' leftist base.

When I became majority leader, I made it very clear that I wanted the Senate to return to the regular order consideration of appropriations bills. I was not and am not interested in funding the government through last-minute, backroom deals. The right way to fund the government, whenever humanly possible, is through regular order here in the Senate. That means taking appropriations bills through committee, where Republicans and Democrats alike have a chance to make their voices heard, and then bringing those bills to the Senate floor for more debate and amendment. That process is good for Senators of both parties, to say nothing of being best for the American people.

But Democrats can't take "yes" for an answer, so instead of working with Republicans to fund the government through a clean, nonpartisan continuing resolution so that we can get back to bipartisan negotiations on appropriations, Democrats are yielding to the desires of their rabidly leftist base and are attempting to hold government funding hostage to a long list of partisan demands.

The kind of clean CR Republicans have put forward used to be something Democrats embraced. In fact, Democrats voted in favor of clean CRs no fewer than 13 times during the Biden administration. Yet, now that Republicans are offering a clean CR, it is somehow a no-go. It is funny how that happens.

The Democrat leader has tried to defend his party's double standards by suggesting that this is a special case. Really? Really? Why is it always a special case with Democrats?

The truth is, the only thing special about this case is that Democrats can't stand the fact that the American people elected Donald Trump. So we all have to live with their endless temper tantrum, which apparently may now include shutting down the government.

I could spend some time talking about the measure Democrats put forward yesterday. I could talk about how it would allow noncitizens and able-bodied adults who won't work to stay on the Medicaid rolls, while at the same time ripping away the historic investment in home- and community-based services for Americans with disabilities. I could talk about how it would eliminate a transformational investment in rural healthcare, dilute Medicaid resources for those most in need, and a whole lot more. But suffice it to say that it is a fundamentally unserious proposal designed to appease Democrats' liberal base, and it has zero chance of making it through Congress. And they know that.

I can't stop Democrats from opposing our nonpartisan continuing resolution. If they want to shut down the government, they have the power to do so. But if they think they are going to gain political points from shutting down the government over a clean, nonpartisan CR—something they voted for 13 times under the Biden administration—I would strongly urge them to think again.

The ball is in the Democrats' court. They can vote with the Republicans on a clean, nonpartisan CR to fund the government and allow the Senate to complete additional appropriations work or they can vote for their own partisan CR and move the country one step closer to a shutdown. For the sake of the American people, I hope they will choose to vote with us.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today, all of America can see the glaring contrast between Republican and Democratic priorities, as shown by the bills each party introduced late yesterday.

Senators will have to choose to stand with Donald Trump and keep the same lousy status quo and cause the Trump healthcare shutdown or stand with the American people, protect their healthcare, and keep the government functioning.

Today, we have a rare moment in the Senate where two bills come to the floor that truly crystallize the contrast between the two parties.

On the Republican side, Americans will see more of the same high costs, especially on healthcare, more of the same failures of the last 9 months or, instead, Republicans can vote to undo the destruction Donald Trump has inflicted on American healthcare and instead work on a bipartisan bill—the only bipartisan bill that can win—to keep the government open. That is what Democrats offer the American people. The choice is clear.

Our Republican colleagues seem to think Americans are happy with the direction of this country. They are voting like they think the status quo is good enough even though they have heard from so many of their constituents about the fear of hospitals closing, of healthcare being diminished, of premiums going way up, hundreds of dollars each month. They have heard that from their constituents, but they stick with Donald Trump, who doesn't give a hoot about them.

Republicans are voting like the status quo is good enough. They are wrong. Americans are tired of the status quo. They are tired of Donald Trump's chaos and inflationary policies.

By not even negotiating, by trying to make this partisan, Donald Trump and Republicans are shutting the government down.

People are paying more for groceries, more for their electric bills, more for rent. Even a cup of coffee every morning has gotten more expensive under Donald Trump.

Healthcare in America has been plunged into crisis. Fifteen million Americans will lose their healthcare. Premiums are set to go through the roof—hundreds of dollars each month, thousands of dollars each year. The American family—average family—can't afford that.

Republicans—what do they say? Well, let's kick the can down the road. Republicans say: Let's put it off. Let's do it later. But for Republicans, "later" means "never."

We should solve this healthcare crisis now. People are already getting letters in the mail saying their premiums are about to go up next year by \$300, \$400, \$500—God forbid, even more.

A new report today showed that if we extend these tax credits, the vast majority of the benefits will go to the working- and middle-class families—the families who need help. That is what Democrats want to do here today.

Also, hospitals from Virginia to Nebraska, from Maine to California, are shutting down right now—not next

year; now. You know what that means. If you live in rural America, the closest hospital to you might be hundreds of miles away. You might not be able to see a doctor. Even if you can, you are going to pay more to see the doctor.

If you are an adult with parents who live in a nursing home, what is going to happen if that nursing home closes due to budget cuts? Hundreds—hundreds—of nursing homes will close because they depend on Medicaid, which has been slashed. Most people, most average families, can't afford to take their parents in, and there is no way they could provide the same care and expertise that a nursing home could.

I have talked to long-term care centers—in Republican districts no less—where doctors and nurses and healthcare workers and parents are frustrated or worried—worried their jobs are imperiled and worried even more that their patients are imperiled. They cannot understand how Donald Trump and Republicans are so OK with cutting their funding. In short, it is a betrayal. That is what the status quo looks like under Donald Trump.

Also, let me speak to my own colleagues here in the Senate who care about this institution and who, in normal times, would love to work together with the other side to make good things happen for the country. Donald Trump and his little minion Russell Vought have made a total mockery of the congressional appropriations process. He has trampled over Congress's power of the purse. He has illegally frozen, canceled, and redirected—unilaterally misappropriated—hundreds of billions in funding.

Why the heck should the Senate vote on a budget if Russell Vought single-handedly, with Donald Trump's support, can undo it all? And that includes NIH research. It includes public broadcasting and so much else. It is all illegal. It cannot be tolerated. Why pass a budget if Russell Vought can unilaterally rescind it? Every Senator should not stand for it, including our Republican colleagues. Democrats will certainly not stand for it. Will Republicans?

Republicans cannot expect that another take-it-or-leave-it extension of government funding that fails to address healthcare costs is going to cut it for the American people. What we should do instead is move forward with our Democratic proposal to work to keep the government open, to lower people's premiums, to protect people's healthcare.

Finally, both sides should at least talk. Donald Trump does not want to talk. He has said to Republicans: "Don't even bother" to deal with Democrats. That is Donald Trump saying he—he—wants a shutdown.

You have to have two parties to pass a bill. If you say "Don't deal with Democrats," you are saying you want a shutdown. That is what Trump has said. He either doesn't know the Senate procedure, where you need 60

votes—that is obvious—or he doesn't know math, because he only has 53.

Donald Trump is saying he wants a shutdown, and Leader THUNE and Speaker JOHNSON should resist Trump's bullying. They know the only way to pass a budget is with bipartisan negotiation. In the 4 years when we Democrats had a majority, there was never a shutdown. Why? We talked to our Republican colleagues and created bipartisan proposals. We sat down and talked, which was normally what happened, except our Republican colleagues—Leader THUNE and Speaker JOHNSON—are too afraid to buck Donald Trump.

Well, the American people won't stand for Donald Trump's status quo. They don't like the Republican partisanship. They expect both sides to come together and address the real needs they face, from healthcare to the cost of living. This is what Democrats offer the American people with our bill today if Senate Republicans heed their call.

#### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I must speak for another moment about the FCC.

We are in a moment of peril—dire peril—in America because yesterday Donald Trump said he intends to put a dagger through the heart of what America is about when he said that he doesn't believe in free speech, that maybe the licenses and ability to speak of people and broadcast companies that disagree with him should be taken away.

When Donald Trump says the FCC should consider revoking licenses of networks with shows and hosts who are "against me" and who "give me only bad publicity," he is talking about a dictatorship. That is what dictatorships do—they shut down anyone who has any disagreement with them. But that is what he is threatening to do today through Brendan Carr. He said:

I would think maybe their licenses should be taken away. It will be up to Brendan Carr.

That is censorship. It is disgusting. It is a violation of the First Amendment. What Trump is doing comes right out of Xi and Putin's playbook. He is launching in broad daylight a naked attack on perhaps the most basic freedom in America: free speech. For hundreds of years, America has been proud to be a land of free speech, and Donald Trump is the first President who really attempts to put a dagger through its heart.

Where are our Republican colleagues? They know this is wrong. Silence; obeisance to Donald Trump's destruction of free speech and democracy. He is launching in broad daylight an attack on one of the most basic freedoms in America, which is free speech, and it is being challenged through his flack at the FCC, Brendan Carr, who coerced ABC to suspend Jimmy Kimmel for his

comments that he or Trump didn't like.

Donald Trump's attack on free speech is despicable. It is anti-American. It is the road to dictatorship. And it is not the first time Donald Trump has done this. He is launching investigations into companies to bully them into submission. And it is not just late-night talk show hosts; Donald Trump and MAGA have said they will try to silence others.

When Carr goes on a podcast and says the FCC "can do this the easy way or the hard way" to make sure Kimmel is silenced, that is an attack on every single media outlet, whether it is traditional or digital. That is an attack on every single American.

So today I am, with Senators MARTKEY and LUJÁN, calling on Chairman Carr to demand to know how the FCC defines "public interest" under Carr, which networks must adhere to; to ask Carr did his staff communicate—he or his staff—with Disney, ABC, or their affiliates.

We all know the murder of Charlie Kirk was abhorrent and evil, plain and simple, but it is repulsive that the Trump administration is exploiting this tragic death as an excuse to go after anyone they don't like politically, including by silencing free speech.

While Donald Trump tries to take away people's freedoms, Republicans in Congress are bowing in obeisance to his throne because they are too scared to stand up to him. They know he will cast retribution on them, as he has on networks and people in the press.

In conclusion, freedom is as fundamental as it gets in America. Everyone knows that. Republicans know that. Conservatives know that. For the longest time, everyone—Ronald Reagan on down—has defended free speech. But if you lose freedom of speech, it is the road to autocracy.

Mr. Carr is one of the greatest threats to free speech in American history. He must resign immediately, and if not, Trump should fire him.

I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026—Continued

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the pending business.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A 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.

Pending:

Wicker-Reed amendment modified No. 3748, in the nature of a substitute.

Wicker (for Ernst) amendment No. 3427 (to amendment No. 3748), to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on casualty assistance and long-term care programs.

Thune amendment No. 3863 (to amendment No. 3427), relating to the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3864 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 3748), relating to the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3865 (to amendment No. 3864), relating to the enactment date.

Motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Thune amendment No. 3866, relating to the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3867 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 3866), relating to the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3868 (to amendment No. 3867), relating to the enactment date.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

S. 2296

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, 2 years ago, when the government was on the brink of a shutdown, the then-majority leader, now-minority leader, Senator SCHUMER of New York, wrote a letter to his colleagues—I have it here—dated September 2023. It says:

Dear Colleague.

In his letter, Senator SCHUMER wrote: We cannot afford . . . brinkmanship or hostage-taking.

He went on to say:

The only way to avoid a shutdown is through bipartisanship.

Well, I am happy to announce that just in the last hour, the House of Representatives passed, in a bipartisan vote, a continuing resolution to keep the government funded.

That is not what we are seeing today, though, from the minority leader. Senator SCHUMER has written this time not a “Dear Colleague” letter but the biggest ransom note in American history.

Mr. SCHUMER. Would my colleague yield for a question?

Mr. BARRASSO. Regular order? No.

One trillion dollars in ransom for 4 weeks of keeping the government open. It is filled with partisan, political poison pills that will never become law.

What we are seeing today from the minority leader is exactly what he once condemned. He is holding the American people hostage. What he is promoting today is not a spending bill; it is a shakedown—the Schumer shakedown, the Schumer strategy to lead to a Schumer shutdown.

Let me break down this ransom note line by line because the American people deserve to know what the Democrats are demanding. Their \$1 trillion demand includes \$500 billion to continue the COVID-era spending spree. We were originally told that the COVID bonus subsidies would be temporary. Democrats now want to turn them into a permanent government giveaway. This is in spite of the fact that the COVID crisis ended years ago.

The Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman was right. He said:

Nothing is more permanent than a temporary government program.

Additionally, Democrats want to weaken Medicaid for those who need it the most. Republicans’ comprehensive economic plan strengthens Medicaid. We reduce waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption. Democrats want to kill those reforms. They want to repeal the entire healthcare section of the law.

Democrats would rather shut down the government than stop States from paying for free healthcare for illegal immigrants. Democrats want to continue to give Medicaid to able-bodied, working-age adults who refuse to work. Democrats are holding America hostage for people who broke our laws and for people who refuse to get jobs.

Now let’s talk about money that the Democrats want to send overseas. This bill spends billions of dollars on radical climate projects: Zimbabwe, \$13 million for “civic engagement”; Honduras, \$25 million for “climate resilience”; West Africa, \$40 million for “low-emissions development.” Let that sink in. Republicans want to keep the government open, pay our troops here at home. Democrats would rather fund climate projects overseas and are willing to shut down the government if we are not willing to do that.

Democrats are willfully wasting billions of hard-working Americans’ tax dollars on their liberal fantasies. Republicans are proposing 7 weeks of clean funding. It is what passed the House in a bipartisan way just an hour ago, and Democrats instead are demanding seven figures for foreign slush funds.

Mr. President, let me point out that Democrats do make some spending cuts. Regrettably, those cuts target our Nation’s most vulnerable hospitals in rural communities. Democrats want to eliminate the \$50 billion Rural Hospital Stabilization Fund. It is something we just passed earlier this year—passed it this summer. It is something that I hear about from our hospitals at home and how grateful they are. And I am a doctor. I practiced medicine in my home State of Wyoming for more than 20 years. I was president of the Wyoming Medical Society. I know the stresses and strains on rural hospitals, and that is why this was passed.

Mr. President, your home State of West Virginia experiences exactly the same thing. We both know how many small community hospitals need the kind of help that we were able to pass that the Democrats now want to strip away. With rural hospitals under significant stress, the last thing Congress should do is remove the funds designated to help keep them open, and they want to instead spend this money in foreign countries. That is what the Democrats want to do.

Let me return to Senator SCHUMER’s own words:

We cannot afford . . . brinkmanship or hostage-taking.

Yet hostage-taking is exactly what he is doing today.

Senator SCHUMER is demanding a trillion dollars in new spending for keeping the government open 4 weeks. He is sending billions of dollars to foreign countries but slashing billions of dollars for rural hospitals in our own country; subsidizing free healthcare for people who refuse to get jobs but threatening the paychecks of the people whose job it is to keep our Nation safe.

He is demanding a far-left wish list or else he wants to shut down the government. That is the Democrat strategy today; make no mistake. Republicans will hold Democrats accountable for supporting this dangerous political theater.

The good news is Congress can keep the government open and functioning without hostage-taking and without shakedowns. Republicans’ clean continuing bipartisan resolution that just passed the House with a bipartisan vote is ready to go; 7 weeks long, it gives Republicans and Democrats on the Appropriations Committee the time they need to finish their work.

I see the chairman of the Appropriations Committee and ranking member on the floor right now.

The House passed it today, bipartisan; President says he will sign it. Senate Democrats voted for similar bills not once, not twice, but 13 times when Joe Biden was President. There is only one person standing in the way of keeping the government open. That is the Minority Leader.

He has said it himself: We cannot afford hostage-taking. I would say to the Minority Leader: Stop holding the government hostage; stop holding the American people hostage; get rid of the ransom note; keep the government open. The American people deserve better than a trillion-dollar shakedown.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I would just make one point to my good friend from Wyoming. When we were in the majority for 4 years, there was not a shutdown—not one. Why? Because we did what you are supposed to do: talk in a bipartisan negotiation and each side has input.

The reason we are having a shutdown now is you and your leadership refuse to talk to Democrats and have input and want only your imprimatur on the bill, which we believe hurts Americans badly with healthcare.

Never a shutdown when we were in leadership. You can quote all the things you want. We did it the right way. You are not.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, in just a short bit, we are going to vote on a bill that Democrats introduced earlier this week that does a couple of critical things. First of all, it prevents a needless shutdown at the end of this month,

and it gives us more time to hammer out the funding bills that help get families by and ensure Congress—not Donald Trump or Russ Vought—decides how our taxpayer dollars are spent.

Secondly, this bill takes critical steps to prevent Russ Vought from stealing money from cancer research or Trump deciding unilaterally he is going to cut off funding he doesn't like.

Third, it provides critical new security resources to keep Federal officials safe and help ensure political violence does not tear further at the fabric of our democracy.

And, fourth, this bill addresses the looming Republican healthcare crisis to stop healthcare costs from rocketing up and our rural hospitals from shutting down. These are four priorities that I think every single Member of Congress should be able to agree with.

I am afraid that while some of my Republican colleagues say they want to address the healthcare tax credits, they are quick to caveat that now is not the right time. Republican leaders said as much.

So I have to ask: When is the time? It seems to me the time is now. When Republicans say they don't want to talk about healthcare yet, what they are saying is, they don't want to talk about it until a lot of the damage has been done because premium hikes are already being announced and people will receive letters in the mail with their new rates next month.

So the time to act, really, is now. The clock is ticking, but Republicans don't want to even have a conversation about that yet. Well, Democrats are forcing a conversation. Our bill will not only avoid a government shutdown and give us time to continue working on our funding bills, it would address the imminent healthcare crisis, preventing premiums from skyrocketing by extending healthcare tax credits before those higher premiums kick in and are locked in and reversing Republicans' massive Medicaid cuts that will kick millions off of their insurance and shutter hospitals.

This vote will show America who seriously wants to help our families afford healthcare and keep those hospitals open and who is content to let those costs skyrocket and hospitals to close.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting yes on our bill that we would introduce this week on the Democrat side so we can act with the urgency this moment requires.

Let me be clear: Do I strongly urge my Republican colleagues to join me in voting for this funding bill that we introduced? Absolutely. But if they choose not to, the Senate will move to consideration of the partisan House-passed CR.

I want to be crystal clear here. There was and still is, in fact, a path to preventing a shutdown, and it starts with the Republican leadership finally sitting down with our Democratic leadership, something they have refused, for literally weeks, to do.

You want Democratic votes on a funding bill? A good place to start is by actually trying to win those votes. But instead of so much as talking to Democrats about how to stop millions of Americans from losing their healthcare or seeing their premiums double or worse, the Republican leadership has decided to follow Trump's orders, blow off Democrats, and risk a Republican shutdown.

I have had productive conversations with my fellow appropriators, but those conversations only mean so much when Republican leadership chooses to pull the rug out from under us. Four-corner negotiations were positive, but leadership has to be involved to wrap those negotiations and at least discuss healthcare.

If Republican leadership refuses to even speak with our Democratic leadership, where does that leave us? Instead of meeting us at the table to hammer out a bipartisan short-term CR, advance the critical work on those bills, and kick off serious talks on healthcare, House Republicans went off alone. They released a bill that utterly fails to address priorities that are top of mind for so many families.

That is a choice Republicans have made, and it is downright callous. After all, if Republicans insist on inaction, higher premiums are going to be locked in for people across our country. That is the cost of delay.

But Republicans are, essentially, saying the American people should just accept massive price increases for healthcare. And they expect Democrats to just simply go along. And even if Republicans decide to wait until the last minute for an extension, 1.5 million Americans will still lose their healthcare.

Republicans are trying to act like just cutting one party out of those talks and then trying to demand their votes is somehow business as usual—no way; no thanks.

I will be voting no on the Republican funding bill because there is a better way here. Why not sit down with our Democratic leadership to talk about how we pass the short-term CR, how we make progress, critical progress on our full-year funding bills, and how we handle this healthcare crisis?

After all, Republicans are willing to say to the press, they want all of these things, they say it in front of the cameras. Why aren't they willing to say it in a room with Leader SCHUMER and Leader JEFFRIES? Why aren't they willing to just meet and actually start charting a course on how we move forward on that?

I think the main reason is Donald Trump. Again, he told Republicans don't even bother dealing with Democrats. Seems like Republican leaders are just afraid to cross the aisle and have a simple meeting, a mere conversation, if it risks losing Donald Trump.

That is wrong, and it is dangerous because with rare exception, just about

every bill we pass here in the Senate takes 60 votes. So to get things done for our families back home, Republicans need to work with Democrats. And if Republican leadership cannot find the courage to do that on what should be low-hanging fruit here, if they can't sit down with our Democratic leadership to talk about a short-term CR, what does that mean for the work we have been doing on our full-year spending bills? What does it mean for extending those healthcare tax credits? And what does it mean for any of the other challenging issues we would all like to work together on to address?

It is deeply disappointing to me that the Republican leaders have chosen to go down the partisan route we are here on today. But there is still time to do the right thing. They should come to the table.

I am a “no” on the Republican CR, but my colleagues should know I am committed to this process. After all, there is so much at stake in all of our annual funding bills. It matters tremendously that we fully fund WIC to make sure moms and babies don't go hungry; it is hugely important that we fund the VA to make sure our veterans are getting the quality of care we promised them when they come home.

Families in my State and across the country are counting on us here in Congress to protect funding for childcare and Head Start so our kids can learn and grow. There are students and parents at school districts across America counting on us here in Congress to protect funding for kids with disabilities; for schools in some of our poorest communities.

There are patients everywhere in the country who are desperately counting on us to do our job to federally fund cancer research in hopes of a cure or for a clinical trial that might give them some more time with their loved ones.

I could go on—funding to replace lead pipes or to treat opioid addiction. The work we do in our Appropriations Committee matters. The outcomes that this Congress dictates over how we spend taxpayer dollars matter. It is hugely consequential for millions of Americans, and I am so glad that there is strong bipartisan support for so many of those programs because when we can all agree on something good, that is a win for all of our constituents.

So, yes, I want us to find a way forward so we can keep working on our full-year spending bills that will actually help people. We have already passed eight of those spending bills out of our committee; three on the floor that we are working right now really hard to conference so they can be signed into law.

These are all bills that help people and solve problems. None of us should want to hand the pen over to Russ Vought and give him or Trump or anyone else at the White House more power of our Federal spending. That is

what another year-long continuing resolution would do.

There is a better path forward. I would ask Republican leadership: Simply come to the table. Compromise is a very basic principle. Every American understands it. And if Republicans don't bother working with the Democrats just because Donald Trump told them to, this would be a Republican shutdown.

The Republicans control all of government: the House, the Senate, the White House. The American people know who will be to blame. I ask that we work to move forward to choose a different path, work together and avert this shutdown.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to urge passage of the funding bill that was approved by the House of Representatives earlier today. Now, let's be clear on what this bill is and what it is not.

It is a stopgap measure, which is known as a continuing resolution or often called a CR. It is straightforward. It continues current funding levels for government until November 21. That gives Congress the time that we need to continue our work on the annual appropriations bills.

It is not a yearlong CR. Republicans do not want a yearlong CR. The reason we are operating under a yearlong CR for the first time in history for the Department of Defense, which is causing tremendous difficulties, is because the then-majority leader Senator SCHUMER refused to bring a single appropriations bill to the Senate floor in the last Congress despite the hard and bipartisan work of the Senate Appropriations Committee. So let's be clear on that.

Once again, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have worked hard over the last several months to advance annual appropriations bills and carry out our constitutional responsibility of the power of the purse.

Last month, the full Senate passed with overwhelming bipartisan support our first package of fiscal year 2026 annual appropriations bills. They included the bills funding agriculture and the FDA; military construction and veterans affairs; and the legislative branch.

This marked the first time since 2018—7 years ago—that the Senate approved annual appropriations bills before the August home State work period.

In the intervening weeks, the leaders of the relevant Senate subcommittees have been working very hard with their House counterparts on both sides of the aisle to reconcile the differences between the House and the Senate bills.

We hope to have final versions of these three bills soon that can be considered in both Chambers, enacted, and sent to the President for his signature.

In addition, Majority Leader Thune has already expressed a willingness, in-

deed a commitment, to bring another package of fiscal year 2026 appropriations bills to the Senate floor next month.

This is a welcome change from the last year when then-majority leader Senator SCHUMER refused to bring a single one of the 12 annual appropriations bills to the Senate floor for consideration. Those are the facts.

The result of that obstruction was a full-year continuing resolution for fiscal year 2025 and a delayed start to our current appropriations process.

To my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who want to avoid a similar fate for fiscal year 2026, I say, work with us to complete the annual funding bills, just as we are doing in committee. Pass this clean CR, which has no poison pills, so that we can prevent disruptions to vital programs on which the American people rely while Congress completes its work on the annual funding bills. It should be that simple.

Government shutdowns have negative consequences across government and across the Nation. They require certain government employees such as Border Patrol agents, members of our military and Coast Guard, TSA screeners, and air traffic controllers, among others, to report to work with no certainty on when they will next receive their paycheck.

Shutdowns put critical investments in our national defense on hold, training exercises could be limited, which could hurt our Nation's readiness. New programs would be paused, delaying new capabilities from getting to our warfighters.

Under a shutdown, Federal funding for important national priorities would be halted, including grants to State and local law enforcement and other first responders, new funding and support for the Head Start Program and child welfare services, as well as formula grants to States that support older Americans and individuals with disabilities.

Most day-to-day operations at our national parks would cease. The first week of October is usually peak foliage in Downeast Maine. It is a time when visitors flock to Acadia National Park in Maine—the crown jewel of Maine. In previous shutdowns, park personnel were kept to a minimum. Visitor service centers were closed. Restrooms were not maintained. Trails were not cleared. All of this affects the visitor experience and has a ripple effect, harming our local small businesses when tourists decide to cancel their reservations.

Instead of supporting a clean CR to prevent a government shutdown, congressional Democrats, sadly, have put forth a partisan alternative that is full of poison pill riders and significant policy changes.

This is not a clean CR just extending existing funding levels until, well, in their case, until the end of October, in the case of what I thought was an agreed-upon bipartisan date, November 21, as the House bill would do.

Most appalling—and I want to make sure that all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle realize this—the Democratic version of the continuing resolution would repeal the \$50 billion fund that I authored to help our rural hospitals that are on the brink of closure. I am sure that is a problem in the Presiding Officer's State as well.

In Maine, we have already seen one hospital closure this year, and this fund is vital to other rural hospitals across the State and across the Nation that are struggling to stay afloat and provide essential healthcare to their communities.

Now, I support extending the enhanced premium tax credit for health insurance, but unlike appropriations, that issue does not have a September 30 deadline. It should be a priority for us to take up before the end of the year because, as has been mentioned by the vice chair, insurance bureaus across this country have approved substantial rate increases—24 percent in the State of Maine—so we do need to act. But that is a significant policy change, and the deadline is not September 30.

I urge my colleagues to abandon this brinksmanship that does not serve the American people well, that is unworthy of this Senate, and adopt this straightforward bill sent to us by the House, which the President is willing to sign into law without any further delay and which will avoid a completely unnecessary and harmful shutdown of government.

This would allow us the time to complete the fiscal year 2026 appropriations process and continue our work to find a path forward on the enhanced premium tax credit.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent the quorum call be suspended.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2882 AND H.R. 5371

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that if either of the votes on S. 2882 and H.R. 5371 fail of passage, it be in order for the two leaders to enter motions to reconsider without being on the prevailing side; further, that third readings with respect to the previous order be vitiated and that both bills be considered read a second time and immediately placed on the calendar.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask that the Senate execute the order from September 18, with respect to S. 2882 and H.R. 5371.

## CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS AND OTHER MATTERS ACT, 2026

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the bill, S. 2882, is considered read a second time.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2882) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

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

VOTE ON S. 2282

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 527 Leg.]

YEAS—47

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—8

Banks	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Blackburn	Lee	Sullivan
Cassidy	Mullin	

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 47, and the nays are 45.

The 60-vote threshold having not been achieved, the bill is not passed.

The bill (S. 2882) was rejected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

## ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that following the vote on passage of H.R. 5371, the cloture motion filed during yesterday's session of the Senate on Executive Calendar No. 410 ripen immediately; further, I ask that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Waltz nomination be waived; and that if cloture is invoked, all debate time be expired and the Senate vote immediately on confirmation of the nomination; finally, that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

I ask unanimous consent that these votes be 10-minute votes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

## CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, H.R. 5371 is considered read the first and second time.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5371) making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the bill is considered read a third time.

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

VOTE ON H.R. 5371

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The result was announced—yeas 44, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 528 Leg.]

YEAS—44

Barrasso	Britt	Capito
Boozman	Budd	Collins

Cornyn	Hawley	Moreno
Cotton	Hoeven	Ricketts
Cramer	Husted	Risch
Crapo	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cruz	Justice	Schmitt
Curtis	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Daines	Lankford	Sheehy
Ernst	Lummis	Thune
Fetterman	Marshall	Tillis
Fischer	McCormick	Tuberville
Graham	McCormick	Wicker
Grassley	Moody	Young
Hagerty	Moran	

Hawley	Ricketts
Hoeven	Risch
Husted	Rounds
Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Justice	Scott (FL)
Kennedy	Sheehy
Lankford	Thune
Lummis	Tillis
Marshall	Wicker
McCormick	Young
Moody	
Moran	

NAYS—48

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

NOT VOTING—8

Banks	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Blackburn	Lee	Sullivan
Cassidy	Mullin	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MOODY). On this vote, the yeas are 44, the nays are 48. The 60-vote threshold having not been achieved, the bill is not passed.

The bill (H.R. 5371) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

## MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I enter a motion to reconsider passage of H.R. 5371.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

The Democratic leader.

## MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I enter a motion to reconsider with respect to the failed vote on S. 2882.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

## CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant 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. 410, Michael G. Waltz, of Florida, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the Rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

John Thune, John Boozman, Tim Sheehy, James Lankford, Shelley Moore Capito, Pete Ricketts, Markwayne Mullin, Tommy Tuberville, Rick Scott of Florida, James E. Risch, Bernie Moreno, Tom Cotton, Ted Budd, David McCormick, John R. Curtis, Mike Rounds, Jon A. Husted.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Michael G. Waltz, of Florida, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the Rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Representative of The United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 529 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Moran
Boozman	Grassley	Moreno
Britt	Hagerty	Murkowski
Budd	Hawley	Ricketts
Capito	Hoeven	Risch
Collins	Husted	Rounds
Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cotton	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Kelly	Shaheen
Crapo	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cruz	Lankford	Thune
Curtis	Lummis	Tillis
Daines	Marshall	Tuberville
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker
Fetterman	McCormick	Young
Fischer	Moody	

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—8

Banks	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Blackburn	Lee	Sullivan
Cassidy	Mullin	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays 45.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael G. Waltz, of Florida, to be the Representative of the United States of America to

the United Nations, with the Rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

VOTE ON WALTZ NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Waltz nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 530 Ex.]

YEAS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Moran
Boozman	Grassley	Moreno
Britt	Hagerty	Murkowski
Budd	Hawley	Ricketts
Capito	Hoeven	Risch
Collins	Husted	Rounds
Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cotton	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Kelly	Shaheen
Crapo	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cruz	Lankford	Thune
Curtis	Lummis	Tillis
Daines	Marshall	Tuberville
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker
Fetterman	McCormick	Young
Fischer	Moody	

NAYS—43

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Rosen
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Bennet	Kim	Schiff
Blumenthal	King	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Booker	Blunt Rochester	Luján
Cantwell	Markey	Smith
Coons	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Warnock
Durbin	Ossoff	Warren
Gallego	Padilla	Welch
Gillibrand	Paul	Whitehouse
Hassan	Hassan	Paul
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—10

Banks	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Blackburn	Lee	Sullivan
Cassidy	Mullin	
Durbin	Sanders	

The nomination confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Michigan.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1337

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I am going to be very clear. The clock is

ticking. On October 1, if Congress fails to reauthorize the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act, we are set to lose an absolutely invaluable cornerstone of our national cyber security defense.

For the past 10 years, this law has enabled private companies and Federal Agencies to share cyber threat information both quickly and securely before attacks spread. The protections in this law enable us to mitigate threats before cyber security systems become compromised and irreversible damage is inflicted across our country. If those protections are allowed to lapse, our Nation's information networks will be exposed, vulnerable, and defenseless more so than ever before.

We face unrelenting cyber security threats from criminal hackers and foreign adversaries each and every day. Just this year, hackers backed by the Chinese Government exploited a vulnerability with Microsoft's SharePoint—a platform that runs on many of our computers right here in the Senate—allowing them to access critical infrastructure and compromise sensitive government systems. The Colonial Pipeline ransomware incident, which was linked to a ransomware group based in Russia, brought down a critical gas pipeline, disrupting the daily lives of millions of people on the east coast. The Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act ensures that the government can quickly work with companies experiencing these attacks to stop them from becoming even more widespread.

Adversaries like Russia, China, and Iran are actively working to develop better tools and utilize artificial intelligence to supercharge their cyber attack capabilities. If we don't take immediate action to prevent these cyber security protections from expiring, we will lose one of our Nation's best defenses and empower our adversaries to launch attacks. A lapse in these protections will also embolden cyber criminals to use the same malicious tools to wreak havoc on our economy, exploit America's personal information, disrupt critical services, leaving our government unable to stop them.

The bottom line is, if we don't extend these protections today, our Nation will be significantly less safe from cyber security attacks on October 1.

This should be straightforward. Ten years ago, CISA 2015 was voted out of the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support. Most recently, our colleagues on the House Homeland Security Committee just moved an extension of these authorities for 10 years out of that committee by a vote of 26 to 0—unanimous. It has a proven track record, and that is why. Over the past 10 years, it has established a trusted public-private partnership that safeguards our Nation against ever-evolving cyber security threats.

This is a voluntary program that industry stakeholders and the Trump administration are asking us to renew. Organizations, including the Business

Roundtable, the Business Software Alliance, the Bank Policy Institute, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Information Technology Industry Council—and I can go on and on—all support extending these critical protections to ensure that businesses can effectively share information with the Federal Government and work collaboratively when a breach occurs. There is no question that, as cyber attackers get more sophisticated, we will need to do even more to shore up our defenses, but we absolutely—absolutely—must prevent any further harm that would result from a lapse of this proven law.

That is why it was disappointing to see that, after making a public commitment to working on renewing this legislation earlier this year, the Republican chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee abruptly canceled a committee business meeting this week where we were expected to debate and vote on this very important bill and extension. Committee members on both sides of the aisle want to see action to prevent this law from expiring in the next few days, but we were blocked from even having a discussion about the policy or draft legislation.

The chairman's actions are not only at odds with our committee and my colleagues who sit on the Homeland Security Committee but with our colleagues on the House Homeland Security Committee and Trump administration officials, including Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and National Cyber Director Sean Cairncross—all who want to see this extension for 10 years.

In April of this year, Senator ROUNDS and I introduced a bipartisan bill that would provide a clean extension for the law for 10 years, ensuring that the private sector can continue to rely on these protections for years to come.

With just days before this law will expire and without action from the chairman of the committee, I urge my colleagues to quickly pass this bill. Keep one of our strongest cyber security defenses in place. If we don't move now, we will essentially open the door for cyber criminals and foreign adversaries to do irreparable damage to our information networks, our major industries, and our economy as a whole.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1337 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Virginia.  
CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS  
AND OTHER MATTERS ACT, 2026

Mr. KAINES. Madam President, I rise to discuss the Democratic continuing resolution proposal that was on the floor earlier.

Neither proposal gained sufficient votes, and that means we have work to do to find a compromise that will enable the government to stay open, and I want to make clear why I believe the Democratic proposal has some real strong merit for Virginians and for Members of this body, both Democratic and Republican, and why I think this is such a strong proposal.

My advocacy for the Democratic position is basically focused on two issues: healthcare and the underlying basic notion that we all get—that a deal should be a deal.

During August, I think, as most of us did, I traveled around my home State of Virginia a lot and talked to many people. The Senate had passed the reconciliation bill—that partisan bill—in July, and during the August recess, I heard a boatload from Virginians about their concerns.

Because of that reconciliation bill, six hospitals in Virginia are at risk of closure. These hospitals are all in the rural parts of the Commonwealth.

There are 302,000-plus Virginians who will likely completely lose their health insurance, 136,000 will lose the health insurance that they are currently able to access through the Affordable Care Act, and another 166,000 will likely lose health insurance because of cuts to the Medicaid Program. Virginia has a population of about 8½ million; 302,000 people losing their health insurance is pretty significant.

Those who continue to have health insurance will see significant premium increases. According to the State Corporation Commission, which is the body in Virginia that regulates industries like insurance companies, the 10 insurers that participate in the Virginia individual market in 2026 have requested rate increases from their 2025 rates, with most insurers proposing average increases of 20 percent or higher.

What would that mean? The Kaiser Family Foundation says a family of four, with two adults aged 50 and two kids under 21, are likely to pay an additional \$311 per month, or \$3,729 per year, because of the reconciliation reduction of ACA tax credits.

Virginia hospitals stand to lose up to \$26 billion in Medicaid cuts over the course of the next 14 years because of the reconciliation bill. That is the reason why a number of rural hospitals that are sort of on the edge in terms of their financial situation are on the list of concerns about closure.

Just within the last 2 weeks, we actually had the first closures in Virginia. A well-respected healthcare network in the Shenandoah Valley that has a hospital in Augusta County but then has primary care clinics sort of throughout the region that serves patients who can

be served there instead of a hospital announced that three of the primary care clinics are closing, and the CEO of the Healthcare Network said they are closing because of the Medicaid cuts made in the reconciliation bill that this body passed in July.

I also heard a lot of stories just from individuals. These are the statistics about what is going to happen in Virginia because of the reconciliation bill, but we talk to constituents all the time.

Mary from Springfield, VA—Northern Virginia—and Kim from Mecklenburg County on the North Carolina border both have children with disabilities who rely on Medicaid for access to care to allow their children to remain in their homes instead of in institutional settings. These moms are very worried that Medicaid cuts won't be available for their children's long-term care.

Brenda is a mother in Salem, VA, near Roanoke. She relies on Medicaid to help her remain in her home and not have to be institutionalized, and she worries that the Medicaid cuts will cost her access to the supports that she needs.

William in Virginia Beach, VA, on our eastern coast, says that his son has Marketplace coverage but is worried that the cuts to the ACA premiums mean that the son will no longer have access to that insurance now that the reconciliation bill has put those premium subsidies on a path to expiration.

Maria works as an employee of an affordable housing community for seniors in Fairfax, right here in the DC area. She said that since the passage of the reconciliation bill, she has seen a growing number of low-income seniors come into her office frightened that their Medicaid coverage will be reduced or terminated.

Sharon lives in Lancaster County, which is in a part of Virginia called the Northern Neck, near the Chesapeake Bay. She has called to ask my office if Rappahannock General Hospital was in jeopardy of closing due to the reconciliation bill. Rappahannock hospital is a facility I know well because my in-laws lived right there in Lancaster before they passed away in the last couple of years. It is one of the six hospitals that is listed on the national list as a hospital in jeopardy as Medicaid cuts phase in.

Then, finally, Caroline from Lynchburg, VA, in Central Virginia, has had coverage through the Virginia Marketplace and is concerned that she will no longer have access to the tax credits and subsidies that have helped her afford health insurance.

These are just seven examples of citizens from all over the Commonwealth whom the reconciliation bill—I read the big statistics about it, but these are individual families who have significant challenges.

What the Democratic CR proposal does is something that many Republicans in this body have said needs to

be done. In the aftermath of the reconciliation bill, we are hearing similar stories from our constituents and that we need to fix especially the ACA premium support so that people do not lose health insurance, and we also need to fix some of the Medicaid cuts that caused the concerns that I expressed from these seven individuals.

My visit around Virginia in August sort of made me see this healthcare concern as sort of a spectrum. When you make cuts to Medicaid or to these premiums, five different things happen:

People lose health insurance.

Those who retain health insurance see their premiums go up often because the folks without insurance go to the emergency rooms. That is more expensive care. It has to be paid for, and that tends to assist in driving up the premium cost of those who retain insurance.

Third, as I have indicated has already happened in Virginia, providers close. And when providers close, there is a fourth effect, which is people lose their jobs.

Then the fifth effect is one that I think we should talk about as well. It is not just people losing health insurance and having their premiums go up and seeing their providers close and seeing healthcare professionals lose their jobs; there is a fifth effect.

I was a mayor, and I was a Governor. I did a lot of economic development work in Virginia. I know that one of the things that businesses really care about, if they are looking for places to locate or expand, is what is the local availability of healthcare? It is really difficult to be in a community and try to pitch an economic development project but have the question asked: “Tell us about your hospital. Tell us about your healthcare network” and to explain that “we had a hospital, but it closed. We have had healthcare clinics that closed.” That makes it very, very difficult.

This fifth effect is an economic effect. The decline in healthcare clinics and hospitals, actually, is sort of like a theft of a community’s future because it makes it very difficult to get people to come.

That is why I think the Democratic proposal is a solid one. And I do recognize that in the aftermath of the passage of the reconciliation bill, many Republican colleagues—both in this Chamber and the House—have said that it is important to come back and fix particularly the expiration of the ACA premium tax subsidies. I think that would be a very smart thing for us all to do.

Finally, there is a second reason I really like the Democratic proposal, and it is this: A deal should be a deal. The Democratic proposal has some components in it that would ensure that when Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate reach a deal that goes to the President’s desk and he signs it, that the President then can’t immediately take the money away unilaterally.

I think everybody around my Commonwealth—Democrat, Republican, Independent, or the vast majority who don’t really care that much about politics—they get that a deal should be a deal. When you negotiate and you shake hands, a deal should be a deal.

This actually is related to healthcare as well. In last year’s budget, we had a deal about spending on healthcare priorities. Early in this administration, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., announced that he was clawing back billions of dollars of healthcare funding. To Virginia, it was \$400 million—\$400 million of healthcare funding that we had planned on using during the worst increase in measles, for example, in recent years. It got clawed back from Virginia, and 500 workers and contractors lost their jobs as we were trying to deal with measles and other health epidemics.

I have communities in Virginia that had had economic development projects announced, and they were counting on them for their future. Often, the announcements were attended with great fanfare by our Governor—Governor Youngkin, who is a Republican, who believed these economic deals were a good thing. They were reliant on funding from the Inflation Reduction Act or from the CHIPS manufacturing bill, but those funds, in many instances, have been clawed back.

A deal should be a deal. When we reach a deal, it should be honored so that communities do not plan for healthcare workers, do not plan for economic development projects and feel the rug pulled out from under them.

So those two features of the Democratic proposal: fixing some of the healthcare cuts in the reconciliation bill that, even by many Republicans’ accounts, have gone too far; that have already led to closures of clinics in Virginia and great anxiety among individuals.

We can fix those, and we can establish a principle that should be one that we would all agree on that a deal should be a deal.

I hope as we grapple with the two proposals on the table, neither of which we were able to get 60 votes and be passed, we can take some of the wisdom in these Democratic proposals that would serve Democrats, Republicans, and Independents all over this country and make sure that we include them going forward.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to con-

sider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar No. 433 through Calendar No. 437, Calendar No. 438, with the exception of Brig. Gen. Gary R. Charlton, II, Calendar Nos. 439 through 447, and Calendar No. 449 and Calendar No. 450, and all nominations on the Secretary’s desk, with the exception of PN89; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

#### IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 154:

*To be general*

Gen. Christopher J. Mahoney

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Sara A. Stigler

Col. Robert B. Taylor

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Joshua D. Armstrong

Col. Ryan D. Ayers

Col. Gavin M. Batchelder

Col. Jesse R. Carlson

Col. Travis J. Crawmer

Col. Ryan F. Dannemann

Col. Joseph P. Geaney

Col. David L. Halasi-Kun

Col. Chad E. Holesko

Col. Amee C. Howard

Col. Jared P. Kennish, Jr.

Col. Carol J. Kohtz

Col. Matthew S. Komatsu

Col. Brock E. Lange

Col. Jeremy C. Phillips

Col. Derek B. Routh

Col. Denise K. Sweeney

Col. Natasha S. Taylor

Col. Eric A. Underhill

Col. Bart T. Van Roo

Col. Leah V. Voelker

Col. Sheldon B. Wilson

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be brigadier general*

Col. Lynn M. Lee

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Daniel M. Fesler

Brig. Gen. Robert E. Hargens  
 Brig. Gen. Troy D. Havener  
 Brig. Gen. Patrick L. Lanaghan  
 Brig. Gen. William M. Leahy  
 Brig. Gen. Allison C. Miller  
 Brig. Gen. Mark R. Morrell  
 Brig. Gen. Joseph F. Morrissey, Jr.  
 Brig. Gen. James R. Parry  
 Brig. Gen. Carla R. Riner  
 Brig. Gen. Stephanie S. Samenus

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. James D. Cleet  
 Brig. Gen. Jason W. Knight  
 Brig. Gen. Gregory A. Krane

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Christopher M. Blomquist  
 IN THE ARMY

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Monie R. Ulis  
 IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

*To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Humberto Pabon, Jr.  
 The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:  
*To be brigadier general*  
 Col. Roderick T. Grunwald  
 IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. Jonathan P. Braga  
 Lt. Gen. Michele H. Bredenkamp  
 Maj. Gen. Winston P. Brooks  
 Maj. Gen. Joseph E. Hilbert  
 Maj. Gen. James M. Smith

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Kenyon K. Bell  
 Maj. Gen. Robert D. Davis  
 Maj. Gen. Brandon D. Parker

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Joseph R. Clearfield  
 Maj. Gen. William H. Swan

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the

grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

*To be major general;*

Brig. Gen. John M. Dreska  
 IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 804:

*To be general*

Lt. Gen. Bradford J. Gering  
 IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be admiral*

Vice Adm. George M. Wikoff

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

*To be vice admiral*

Rear Adm. Heidi K. Berg

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN120 AIR FORCE nominations (59) beginning IAN S. ANDERSON, and ending SOMVANG XAYARATH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2025.

PN382 AIR FORCE nominations (14) beginning JARED L. BISHOP, and ending ANTHONY V. SANTINO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2025.

PN449 AIR FORCE nominations (18) beginning AMY C. BROWN, and ending SARAH M. WHEELER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN450 AIR FORCE nominations (18) beginning MARC G. CARNS, and ending DAVID L. WALKER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN452 AIR FORCE nominations (18) beginning DONELLA D. BEAULIEU, and ending SARAH M. WHITSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN454 AIR FORCE nominations (317) beginning ALEXANDRA E. ABLES, and ending ALEC J. ZIEMANN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN455 AIR FORCE nominations (54) beginning SEAN T. ADAMS, and ending CARLOS X. ZAMBRANO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN456 AIR FORCE nominations (147) beginning ANSEL V. AIKEN, and ending TAYLOR E. ZURLINDEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN477 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning CHRISTOPHER S. MORGAN, and ending DAYLE P. PERCLE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 2, 2025.

PN500 AIR FORCE nomination of Harrison E. Payne, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

IN THE ARMY

PN392 ARMY nomination of Benjamin A. Bonner, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2025.

PN435 ARMY nominations (3) beginning MICHAEL R. BARTON, and ending KIRK V. THORSTEINSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 23, 2025.

PN457 ARMY nominations (198) beginning STEVEN J. ACKERSON, and ending 0003789078, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN458 ARMY nominations (152) beginning CHARLES M. ABEYAWARDENA, and ending 0003951181, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN459 ARMY nominations (114) beginning JAMES ACEVEDO, and ending SHADRIKA Y. WITHERSPOON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN460 ARMY nominations (14) beginning JAMES D. BROWNE, JR., and ending JOHN C. TOLIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN478 ARMY nominations (2) beginning PETER G. JUETTEN, and ending ROBERT E. MURDOUGH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 2, 2025.

PN480 ARMY nomination of Richard A. Benson, which nominations was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN481 ARMY nominations (2) beginning WILLIAM R. CARY, and ending KYLE S. JASCHEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN482 ARMY nominations (4) beginning ERIC E. ABRAHAMSEN, and ending JEFFREY W. WIESNER, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN483 ARMY nominations (40) beginning JONATHAN W. ANDERSON, and ending 0002254443, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN501 ARMY nominations (98) beginning NATASCHA R. ANDERSON, and ending NATHAN P. ZWINTSCHER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN502 ARMY nomination of Adam C. Eccleston, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN503 ARMY nomination of Carsell Walker, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN504 ARMY nomination of Stephen A. Noorlag, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN505 ARMY nomination of Brian M. Gallavan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN506 ARMY nomination of Sharif I. Faruque, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN479-2 MARINE CORPS nomination of Keaton H. Harrell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 2, 2025.

PN484 MARINE CORPS nominations (155) beginning MATTHEW S. ALLEN, and ending ADAM YANG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

IN THE NAVY

PN436 NAVY nomination of Bryan J. Laroche, which was received by the Senate

and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 23, 2025.

PN437 NAVY nomination of Phuong T. Pham, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 23, 2025.

PN479-1 NAVY nominations (2) beginning SARA R. DE GROOT, and ending BRIAN KORN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 2, 2025.

PN485 NAVY nominations (45) beginning JOEL ALMANZANUNEZ, and ending DAVID A. WAKEMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN486 NAVY nominations (10) beginning BRANDON L. BARKER, and ending GRAHAM D. ZIEMBA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN487 NAVY nominations (26) beginning ERIC J. BLOMBERG, and ending THOMAS A. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN488 NAVY nominations (203) beginning VIVEK M. ABRAHAM, and ending ARTEMISA A. ZUAZO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN489 NAVY nominations (63) beginning RIAZ M. ALI, and ending WON H. YU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN490 NAVY nominations (159) beginning LEONARD E. ABADAM, and ending KELLYLYNN ZUNI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN491 NAVY nominations (7) beginning HANNAH J. ADDOM-TETTEH, and ending WILLIAM E. OMALLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN492 NAVY nominations (48) beginning BRANDY D. BENNETT, and ending CHEOL YI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN493 NAVY nominations (54) beginning CALEB D. AABERG, and ending DMITRIY YAKUBOV, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN494 NAVY nominations (3) beginning WILLIAM J. DEAN, and ending BRENTON W. HEISSEMER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN495 NAVY nominations (57) beginning JESSICA L. ABBEY, and ending WILLIAM Z. XU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN496 NAVY nominations (134) beginning CHRISTINA M. ACOSTA, and ending ANYA L. ZAPF, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN497 NAVY nominations (67) beginning ABRAHAM D. AGUS, and ending DAVID ZHU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN507 NAVY nominations (28) beginning ADAM E. BAYER, and ending ZACHARY B. ZUMWALT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN508 NAVY nominations (33) beginning DAMIAN R. ALLEN, and ending MICHAEL S. YEARY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN509 NAVY nominations (121) beginning TEDDY G. AJERO, JR., and ending KENNETH E. ZITNIK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN510 NAVY nominations (35) beginning AMY T. ALFARO, and ending JEREMY P. WADE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN511 NAVY nominations (53) beginning ALEXANDER ALBA, and ending SOBONDO J. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN512 NAVY nominations (23) beginning ZACHARY P. BRANCH, and ending SHARLENA Y. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN513 NAVY nominations (65) beginning KARA L. BALLAS, and ending JUSTIN K. WOOLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN514 NAVY nominations (45) beginning ADAM M. ALLEMAN, and ending ROSANNE M. WITT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN515 NAVY nomination of Scott A. Metcalf, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN516 NAVY nominations (2) beginning JOHAN BAIK, and ending BRETT K. CARTWRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

#### IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN426 SPACE FORCE nominations (98) beginning MICHAEL D. ALBERT, and ending RICK H. YUAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 21, 2025.

PN427 SPACE FORCE nominations (115) beginning ROSALINDA M. ALFARO, and ending WILLIE A. YOUNGBLOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 21, 2025.

PN428 SPACE FORCE nominations (59) beginning BRIAN G. ALLEN, and ending DAVID C. ZESINGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 21, 2025.

PN429 SPACE FORCE nominations (60) beginning DANIEL N. BANAKOS, and ending JULIUS A. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 21, 2025.

PN430 SPACE FORCE nominations (53) beginning JOHN M. AGUIRRE, and ending DEREK B. WORTH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 21, 2025.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

#### THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, I support Senator MERKLEY's resolution

calling on the President of the United States to recognize an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, alongside a secure State of Israel. This is a long-held position of the United States, of both Republican and Democratic administrations, which must not be abandoned.

The choice before us is clear: either we embrace the two-state solution or continue to support today's relentless military occupation. This horrible death and destruction in Gaza must stop. That is why the time for two states can be delayed no longer.

Calling for this does not create a state, but rather reinforces the commitment of the two-state solution.

I am deeply committed to a safe, secure, democratic Israel. But this outcome is only possible if there is also an independent, demilitarized, and sovereign Palestinian state.

While the Senate cannot diplomatically recognize an independent Palestine, my colleagues make a reasoned plea in this resolution for President Trump to listen to the American people, to listen to our allies, and to listen to our partners around the world. This step is critical for the peace and security of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.

This resolution reinforces the fact that Israel's neighbors want peace. Saudi Arabia has led the entirety of the Arab League in reaffirming that it seeks full normalization and peace with Israel—if and when Israel is willing to recognize that Palestinians deserve what all people deserve: the right to self-determination, sovereignty, freedom, and dignity.

Saudi Arabia and France have also led a multinational initiative this year underlining that the entire Middle East is willing to build a regional security framework that assures the safety of the people of Israel, but Israel must take unequivocal steps toward a Palestinian state.

I urge my colleagues to join us on this timely resolution, which aligns with the objective of nearly 80 years of U.S. policy: two independent states and lasting peace in the Middle East.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:08 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5371. An act making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 452. An act to award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at

the 1980 Winter Olympics where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet hockey team in the historic "Miracle on Ice", revitalizing American morale at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations and transforming the sport of hockey in the United States.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

At 2:00 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Clerk of the House of Representatives request the Senate to return to the House the bill (H.R. 3426) to amend title 40, United States Code, to limit the construction of new courthouses under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1047. An act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reform the interconnection queue process for the prioritization and approval of certain projects, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3015. An act to reestablish the National Coal Council in the Department of Energy to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy on matters related to coal and the coal industry, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3062. An act to establish a more uniform, transparent, and modern process to authorize the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of international border-crossing facilities for the import and export of oil and natural gas and the transmission of electricity.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1047. An act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reform the interconnection queue process for the prioritization and approval of certain projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3015. An act to reestablish the National Coal Council in the Department of Energy to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy on matters related to coal and the coal industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3062. An act to establish a more uniform, transparent, and modern process to authorize the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of international border-crossing facilities for the import and export of oil and natural gas and the transmission of electricity; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CRUZ, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1092. A bill to require certain products to be labeled with 'Do Not Flush' labeling, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-63).

#### 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. WICKER (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2914. A bill to strengthen strategic defense cooperation between the United States and NATO allies on the Eastern Flank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2915. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish an emerging developer fund program to provide competitive grants to nonprofit housing organizations and community development financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SHEEHY:

S. 2916. A bill to remove the requirement that the Secretary of Transportation consider the committed or anticipated non-Federal funding for long distance intercity passenger rail routes under the Corridor Identification and Development Program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SHEEHY:

S. 2917. A bill to prescribe a process to allow the Secretary of Transportation to make funding adjustments with respect to highway safety funding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2918. A bill to amend the Rebuilding Economic Prosperity and Opportunity for Ukrainians Act to improve the implementation of the seizure of Russian sovereign assets for the benefit of Ukraine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2919. A bill to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to promote transparency by permitting the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board to allow its disciplinary proceedings to be open to the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2920. A bill to enhance civil penalties under the Federal securities laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LUJAN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. MULLIN):

S. 2921. A bill to amend section 7014 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to advance toward full Federal funding for impact aid, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2922. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to extend the authorization for certain alternative fuel and clean vehicles to use HOV facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. 2923. A bill to provide for the automatic acquisition of United States citizenship for certain internationally adopted individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. Res. 414. A resolution designating September 2025 as "National Child Awareness Month" to promote awareness of charities that benefit children as well as youth-serving organizations throughout the United States and recognizing the efforts made by those charities and organizations on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 415. A resolution designating the week of September 21 through September 27, 2025, as "Gold Star Families Remembrance Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. THUNE (for Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 416. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2025 as "Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month" in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell disease and conditions related to sickle cell disease; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. BARASSO):

S. Res. 417. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of September 14 through September 20, 2025, as "Telehealth Awareness Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. ALSO BROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KAHNE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 418. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 20 through September 27, 2025, as "National Estuaries Week"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 100

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 100, a bill to repeal the Corporate Transparency Act.

S. 702

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 702, a bill to require a study on the quality of care difference between mental health and addiction therapy care provided by health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs

compared to non-Department providers, and for other purposes.

S. 862

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 862, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish hyperbaric oxygen therapy to certain veterans with traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder.

S. 1333

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1333, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to modify provisions relating to kidnapping, sexual abuse, and illicit sexual conduct with respect to minors.

S. 1472

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1472, a bill to prohibit oil and gas leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf off the coast of New England.

S. 1538

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

S. 1884

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

S. 2859

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 2859, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure campus access at public institutions of higher education for religious groups.

S. 2904

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2904, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the shadow fleet of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 81

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 81, a joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared to impose duties on articles imported from Brazil.

S. RES. 410

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

DURBIN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 410, a resolution calling on the President to recognize a demilitarized State of Palestine, as consistent with international law and the principles of a two-state solution, alongside a secure State of Israel.

AMENDMENT NO. 3288

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3288 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3759

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3759 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2915. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish an emerging developer fund program to provide competitive grants to nonprofit housing organizations and community development financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. 2915

*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 “Sparking Production of Urban and Rural Housing Act” or the “SPUR Housing Act”.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term “community development financial institution” means an institution that has been certified as a community development financial institution (as defined in section 103 of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4702)) by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(2) DISTRESSED COMMUNITY.—The term “distressed community” has the meaning given the term “qualified census tract” in section 42(d)(5)(B)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(3) HIGH OPPORTUNITY AREA.—The term “high opportunity area” has the meaning given the term in section 1282.1 of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(4) EMERGING DEVELOPER.—The term “emerging developer” means a developer that has—

(A) limited real estate development experience and limited liquidity or net worth;

(B) any other qualifications as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; PART B INSTITUTION.—The terms “institution of higher education” and “part B institution” have the meanings given those terms in section 101 and 322, respectively, of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001, 1061).

(6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

#### SEC. 3. EMERGING DEVELOPER FUND PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish an emerging developer fund program to provide competitive grants to nonprofit housing organizations and community development financial institutions.

(b) USE OF AMOUNTS.—Nonprofit housing organizations and community development financial institutions that receive amounts under this section shall use such amounts—

(1) to offer financing to emerging developers undertaking affordable housing and community development projects, including—

(A) predevelopment loans;

(B) loan loss reserves;

(C) grants;

(D) risk sharing; and

(E) credit enhancements, including interest rate buy downs;

(2) to capitalize a fund to support affordable housing and community development projects of emerging developers;

(3) to offer capacity-building training, and technical assistance programs to emerging developers; and

(4) for other uses approved by the Secretary.

(c) APPLICATION.—Each nonprofit housing organization and community development financial institution that applies for a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may reasonably require and shall—

(1) demonstrate plans for providing comprehensive training, technical assistance, and financing to emerging developers; and

(2) include information about past work completed by the organization or institution.

(d) AWARDING OF GRANTS.—The Secretary shall award grants under this section based on the ability of an applicant to—

(1) identify and quantify the need for development capacity building in the community of focus, including emerging developers with an intent to pursue affordable housing and community development projects, including in distressed communities;

(2) provide comprehensive real estate development capacity building and ongoing technical assistance, including by helping emerging developers to—

(A) develop and manage a construction budget;

(B) determine financing needs;

(C) identify and secure sources of private and public capital, including preparing applications for tax credits under section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(D) structure capital stacks;

(E) understand loan terms;

(F) conduct business planning;

(G) conduct strategic planning;  
 (H) prepare bids;  
 (I) structure financial statements; and  
 (J) implement bonding strategies;  
 (3) provide affordable lending products for affordable housing and community development projects, such as predevelopment loans and other relevant products;

(4) offer mentoring and networking opportunities for emerging developers;

(5) build partnerships with institutions of higher education, including community colleges and part B institutions, to provide real estate development course work and other resources to current and aspiring real estate developers;

(6) provide ongoing technical assistance after completion of any curriculum offered at the institutions described in paragraph (5); and

(7) track program outcomes, including the total number and volume of loans originated, total development costs, geographic areas served, and income streams created for the borrower.

(e) **PRIORITY.**—When awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall prioritize organizations that—

(1) are providing lending or technical assistance to emerging developers—

(A) with limited experience;

(B) who are undercapitalized; or

(C) who intend to focus on the development of affordable housing and community development projects in distressed communities and high opportunity areas; and

(2) have a history of providing support to emerging developers.

(f) **LIMITATION.**—No organization or institution may receive an award amount under this section that is greater than 15 percent of the amount appropriated pursuant to subsection (h).

(g) **COORDINATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—The Secretary shall coordinate with the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to the alignment of program under this section and reporting requirements under this section with similar requirements of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund under the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.).

(h) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2919. A bill to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to promote transparency by permitting the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board to allow its disciplinary proceedings to be open to the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board PCAOB Enforcement Transparency Act, which I am reintroducing today with Senator GRASSLEY, will bring needed transparency to the disciplinary proceedings the PCAOB has brought against auditors and audit firms.

Over two decades ago, in response to a series of massive financial reporting frauds particularly the Enron and WorldCom scandals, the Senate Banking Committee held multiple hearings, which found various underlying causes, including weak corporate governance, a lack of accountability, and inad-

equate oversight of accountants charged with auditing public companies' financial statements. Later, in a 99-to-0 vote, the Senate passed the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to address the structural weaknesses revealed by the hearings. Among its many provisions, this law called for the creation of an independent Board, the PCAOB, to oversee auditors of public companies in order to protect investors who rely on independent audit reports on the financial statements of public companies.

Under the oversight of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC, the PCAOB oversees nearly 1,500 registered accounting firms, as well as the audit partners and staff who contribute to a firm's work on each audit. The Board's ability to begin proceedings that can determine whether there have been violations of its auditing standards or rules of professional practice is a crucial component of its oversight. However, unlike other oversight bodies, the Board's disciplinary proceedings cannot be made public without consent from the parties involved. Of course, parties subject to disciplinary proceedings have no incentive to consent to publicizing their alleged wrongdoing, and these proceedings are typically kept hidden from the public. Furthermore, the Board cannot publicize the results of its disciplinary proceedings until after the appeals process has been completely exhausted, which can often take several years.

This lack of transparency invites abuse and undermines the congressional intent behind the PCAOB, which was to shine a bright light on auditing firms and practices, deter misconduct, and bolster the accountability of auditors of public companies to the investing public.

Our bill will restore transparency and reaffirm Congress's intent, by making hearings by the PCAOB, and all related notices, orders, and motions, transparent and available to the public unless otherwise ordered by the Board. This would more closely align the PCAOB's procedures with those of the SEC for analogous matters.

Increasing transparency and accountability of audit firms subject to PCAOB disciplinary proceedings strengthens investor confidence in our financial markets and better protects companies from problematic auditors. I urge our colleagues to join Senator GRASSLEY and me in supporting this legislation to enhance transparency in the PCAOB's enforcement process.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2920. A bill to enhance civil penalties under the Federal securities laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today, I am introducing the Stronger Enforcement of Civil Penalties Act along with Senator GRASSLEY. Our bipartisan bill will help securities regulators better

protect investors and demand greater accountability from market players. Despite the regulatory reforms made after the financial crisis, we continue to see calculated wrongdoing by some on Wall Street, and without the consequence of meaningful penalties to serve as an effective deterrent, I worry this disturbing culture of misconduct will persist.

The amount of penalties the Securities and Exchange Commission SEC can fine an institution or individual is restricted by statute. I learned how this limitation significantly interferes with the SEC's ability to execute its enforcement duties during my time as the chairman of the Banking Committee's Securities, Insurance, and Investment Subcommittee in 2011. Around then, a Federal judge criticized the SEC for not pursuing a larger settlement against Citigroup, a major actor in the financial crisis. The judge rightly noted that Citigroup had settled with the Agency for an amount that was far below the cost the bank had inflicted on investors. The SEC, however, indicated that a statutory prohibition against levying a larger penalty led to the low settlement amount. Indeed, in the immediate aftermath of the financial crisis, then-SEC Chairman Mary Schapiro explained that "the Commission's statutory authority to obtain civil monetary penalties with appropriate deterrent effect is limited in many circumstances." Unfortunately, a decade later, the SEC's statutory authority remains unchanged, and the Agency's deterrent effect remains limited even though securities fraud is still as prevalent as ever.

The bipartisan bill we are introducing will discourage misconduct by raising the maximum statutory civil monetary penalties, directly linking the size of the penalties to the amount of losses suffered by victims of a violation, and substantially increasing the financial stakes for serial offenders of our Nation's securities laws.

Specifically, our bill would broaden the SEC's options to tailor penalties to the circumstances of a given violation. In addition to raising the per violation caps for severe, or "thirds tier," violations to \$1 million per offense for individuals and \$10 million per offense for entities, the legislation would also give the SEC more options to collect greater penalties based on the ill-gotten gains of the violator or on the financial harm to investors.

Our bill also has two provisions to deter repeat offenders on Wall Street. The first would authorize the SEC to triple the penalty cap applicable to recidivists who have been held either criminally or civilly liable for securities fraud within the previous 5 years. The second would allow the SEC to seek a civil penalty against those who violate existing Federal court or SEC orders—an approach that would be more efficient, effective, and flexible than the current civil contempt remedy. These updates would reinforce the

SEC's ability to levy tough penalties against repeat offenders.

Our constituents deserve a strong regulator that has the necessary tools to go after fraudsters and pursue the difficult cases arising from our increasingly complex financial markets. The Stronger Enforcement of Civil Penalties Act will enhance the SEC's ability to demand meaningful accountability from Wall Street, which in turn will increase transparency, deter bad actor, and maintain confidence in our financial system. I urge our colleagues to support this important bipartisan legislation.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2922. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to extend the authorization for certain alternative fuel and clean vehicles to use HOV facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the HOV Lane Exemption Reauthorization Act, which I introduced today.

The HOV toll lane authority for alternative fuel vehicles, in place since 1998, gives States the ability to allow alternative fuel and low-emission vehicles to use high-occupancy vehicle lanes. This authority provides flexibility for State departments of transportation to manage congestion, encourage cleaner cars on the road, and give drivers more options. It is now in use in more than 10 states, including California, Utah, and New York, and has been renewed on a bipartisan basis in each subsequent surface transportation reauthorization bill.

However, due to a drafting error in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the extension expires in September 2025 rather than September 2026 as originally intended. Without congressional action, these programs lapse at the end of this month, creating uncertainty for motorists, consumers, and State transportation officials. It also deprives States of the ability to make their own choices about how best to manage HOV lane access in ways that fit their unique transportation needs.

Our bipartisan bill corrects this oversight and extends the authority through the next fiscal year. This is not a sweeping change or a new mandate; it is a straightforward, common-sense fix that ensures States can continue a longstanding program that encourages the adoption of low-emission and alternative fuel vehicles and helps ease congestion on our busiest roads. By extending the program, we provide clarity for drivers, predictability for States, and continuity for a policy with bipartisan support.

I want to thank Senator CURTIS and Senator GILLIBRAND for co-leading this bill with me, and I urge our colleagues to join us in ensuring that States like ours are not unfairly penalized for a simple Federal oversight.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 414—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2025 AS “NATIONAL CHILD AWARENESS MONTH” TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF CHARITIES THAT BENEFIT CHILDREN AS WELL AS YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS MADE BY THOSE CHARITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH AS CRITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Ms. HASSAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

#### S. RES. 414

Whereas the millions of children and youth in the United States represent the hopes and the future of the United States;

Whereas numerous individuals, charities benefitting children, and youth-serving organizations that work with children and youth collaborate to provide invaluable services to enrich and better the lives of children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas raising awareness of and increasing support for organizations that provide access to health care, social services, education, the arts, sports, and other services will result in the development of character in, and the future success of, the children and youth of the United States;

Whereas the month of September, as the school year begins, is a time when parents, families, teachers, school administrators, and communities increase the focus on children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas the month of September is a time for the people of the United States to highlight and be mindful of the needs of children and youth;

Whereas private corporations and businesses have joined with hundreds of national and local charitable organizations throughout the United States in support of a month-long focus on children and youth; and

Whereas a long-term commitment to children and youth is in the public interest and will encourage widespread support for charities and organizations that seek to provide a better future for the children and youth of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate designates September 2025 as “National Child Awareness Month”—

(1) to promote awareness of—

(A) charities that benefit children; and  
(B) youth-serving organizations throughout the United States;

(2) to recognize the efforts made by the charities and organizations described in paragraph (1) on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of the United States; and

(3) to recognize the importance of meeting the needs of children and youth, including children and youth who—

- (A) have experienced homelessness;
- (B) are in the foster care system;
- (C) have been victims, or are at risk of becoming victims, of child sex trafficking;
- (D) have been impacted by violence;
- (E) have experienced trauma; and
- (F) have serious physical and mental health needs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 415—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27, 2025, AS “GOLD STAR FAMILIES REMEMBRANCE WEEK”

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

#### S. RES. 415

Whereas the last Sunday in September—

(1) is designated as “Gold Star Mother’s Day” under section 111 of title 36, United States Code; and

(2) was first designated as “Gold Star Mother’s Day” under the Joint Resolution entitled “Joint Resolution designating the last Sunday in September as ‘Gold Star Mother’s Day’, and for other purposes”, approved June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895);

Whereas there is no date dedicated to families affected by the loss of a loved one who died in service to the United States;

Whereas a gold star symbolizes a family member who died in the line of duty while serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, through their service, bear the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States;

Whereas the selfless example of the service of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, as well as the sacrifices made by the families of those individuals, inspires all individuals in the United States to sacrifice and work diligently for the good of the United States; and

Whereas the sacrifices of the families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces and the families of veterans of the Armed Forces should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 21 through September 27, 2025, as “Gold Star Families Remembrance Week”;

(2) honors and recognizes the sacrifices made by—

(A) the families of members of the Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice in order to defend freedom and protect the United States; and

(B) the families of veterans of the Armed Forces; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Families Remembrance Week by—

(A) performing acts of service and good will in their communities; and

(B) celebrating families in which loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice so that others could continue to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 416—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2025 AS “SICKLE CELL DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH” IN ORDER TO EDUCATE COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES ABOUT SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND THE NEED FOR RESEARCH, EARLY DETECTION METHODS, EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS, AND PREVENTATIVE CARE PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO COMPLICATIONS FROM SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND CONDITIONS RELATED TO SICKLE CELL DISEASE**

Mr. THUNE (for Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. WARNOCK)) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 416

Whereas sickle cell disease (referred to in this preamble as “SCD”) is an inherited blood disorder that is a major health problem in the United States and worldwide;

Whereas SCD can result in multiple medical complications, including anemia, jaundice, gallstones, strokes, restricted blood flow, damaged tissue in the liver, spleen, and kidneys, and death;

Whereas SCD causes acute and chronic episodes of severe pain;

Whereas SCD affects an estimated 100,000 individuals in the United States;

Whereas approximately 2,000 babies are born with SCD each year in the United States, with the disease occurring in approximately 1 in 365 newborn Black or African American infants and 1 in 16,300 newborn Hispanic-American infants, and can be found in individuals of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Asian, and Indian origin;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 individuals in the United States have the sickle cell trait and 1 in 13 Black or African Americans carries the trait;

Whereas there is a 1 in 4 chance that a child born to parents who both have the sickle cell trait will have the disease;

Whereas the life expectancy of an individual with SCD in the United States is often severely limited, with some estimates showing a shortened life expectancy by 20 years;

Whereas sickle cell anemia is a common cause of childhood stroke, and in 2019, fewer than half of children with sickle cell anemia who were 2 to 16 years old received the recommended screening for stroke;

Whereas, in 2019, only 2 in 5 children with sickle cell anemia who were 2 to 9 years old used recommended medication that can prevent sickle cell anemia complications;

Whereas, in 2020, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine developed a comprehensive strategic plan and blueprint for action to address sickle cell disease, which, among other things, cited the need for new innovative therapies and promoting widespread patient access to approved treatments;

Whereas, in 2023, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (commonly known as “HSCT”) was the only cure for SCD, and the Food and Drug Administration has since approved 2 gene therapies that have been demonstrated to cure SCD;

Whereas more research is needed to find more treatments and cures to help individuals with SCD;

Whereas the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has introduced an innovative cell and gene therapy access model for interested States and United States territories, where it will support administration and outcomes-based contracts with drug manufacturers for Medicaid beneficiaries to receive these life-saving breakthroughs; and

Whereas September 2025 has been designated as “Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month” in order to educate communities across the United States about SCD, including early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from SCD and conditions related to SCD: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities during Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month to raise public awareness of the sickle cell trait, preventative care programs, treatments, and other patient services for those suffering from sickle cell disease, complications from sickle cell disease, and conditions related to sickle cell disease.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 417—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 20, 2025, AS “TELEHEALTH AWARENESS WEEK”**

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 417

Whereas telehealth allows a health care practitioner to furnish health care services to a patient or a practitioner at a different physical location than the health care practitioner;

Whereas telehealth plays a significant role in supporting access to quality health care services for millions of patients;

Whereas health care workforce shortages are a significant problem in many areas and for many types of health care clinicians;

Whereas telehealth increases access to health care in areas with workforce shortages and for individuals who live far away from health care facilities, have limited mobility or access to transportation, or have other barriers to accessing care;

Whereas, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the utilization of telehealth services in the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) was low, accounting for approximately 0.1 percent of visits of patients receiving health care services under Medicare part B in 2019;

Whereas 25 percent of Medicare beneficiaries received at least 1 telehealth service in 2024;

Whereas, in 2023, approximately 90 percent of Medicare beneficiaries who received a telehealth service were satisfied with their experience;

Whereas, in 2024, telehealth was a routine health care modality with 13 percent of all Medicare beneficiaries and 23 percent of dually eligible Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries using telehealth in the last quarter of the calendar year;

Whereas telehealth is a common care modality for Medicare beneficiaries to receive behavioral health services, with half of common psychotherapy services furnished under the original Medicare fee-for-service program delivered by telehealth in 2022;

Whereas federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics use telehealth to deliver services to rural and underserved populations;

Whereas telehealth now represents a critical component of health care delivery;

Whereas any lapse in Medicare coverage for telehealth services could adversely impact patient access to care;

Whereas legislative efforts to increase telehealth access have received bipartisan support in the Senate and the House of Representatives;

Whereas the United States has an opportunity to help improve access to health services for all individuals, including members of rural and underserved communities; and

Whereas “Telehealth Awareness Week” unites the efforts of patients, caregivers, health care providers, policymakers, and other stakeholders to advance the role of telehealth in health care: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 14 through September 20, 2025, as “Telehealth Awareness Week”;

(2) recognizes the impact of telehealth in delivering health care services for patients across the United States; and

(3) urges that steps should be taken to—

(A) raise awareness about the benefits of telehealth;

(B) highlight resources for health care providers and patients regarding telehealth;

(C) collect and analyze data on the impacts of telehealth; and

(D) promote continuous access to telehealth for all communities and across settings.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 418—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27, 2025, AS “NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK”**

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KAINA, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 418

Whereas estuary regions cover only 13 percent of the land area in the continental United States but contain nearly 40 percent of the population, 39 percent of the jobs, and 47 percent of the economic output of the United States;

Whereas the oceans, estuaries, and Great Lakes of the United States continue to fuel economic growth across the United States, with employment from the estuarine and ocean economy growing at 4.5 percent in 2023, compared to the national average employment growth of 2 percent;

Whereas the estuary, ocean, and Great Lakes economic sectors created 111,000 new jobs between 2022 and 2023, employed 2,600,000 people, and contributed \$511,000,000,000 to the 2023 gross domestic product;

Whereas the commercial and recreational fishing industries support over 2,300,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas, in 2022—

(1) commercial and recreational saltwater fishing in the United States generated \$321,000,000,000 in sales;

(2) angler trip expenditures totaled nearly \$13,412,000,000; and

(3) saltwater recreational fishing supported at least 691,693 jobs, generated \$138,000,000,000 in sales impacts across the economy of the United States, and contributed \$45,100,000,000 in income impacts and \$74,900,000,000 in value-added impacts to the United States;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitats, nurseries, and migration stopovers for—

(1) countless species of fish and wildlife, including more than 68 percent of the commercial fish catch in the United States by value and 80 percent of the recreational fish catch in the United States by weight; and

(2) many species that are listed as threatened or endangered, including birds integral to the health of estuaries, such as the Snowy Plover and Saltmarsh Sparrow;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during hurricanes, storms, and other extreme weather events;

Whereas, restored wetlands in the United States have been shown to remove up to 80 percent of nitrogen and 70 percent of phosphorus from runoff water;

Whereas, in 2017, mangrove ecosystems in Florida prevented \$1,500,000,000 in direct flood damage during Hurricane Maria;

Whereas, coastal wetlands from Maine to North Carolina prevented \$625,000,000 in property damage during Hurricane Sandy;

Whereas, in New Jersey, areas with salt marshes experience 16 percent lower annual flood losses than areas without salt marshes;

Whereas, by the 1980s, the United States had already lost more than 50 percent of the wetlands that existed in the Thirteen Original Colonies;

Whereas the degradation and loss of estuaries has led to the collapse of some bays in the United States that were once filled with fish and oysters and have now become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical waste, and marine debris;

Whereas harmful algal blooms are hurting fish, wildlife, and human health and are causing serious ecological and economic harm to many estuaries;

Whereas changes in sea level can affect estuarine water quality and estuarine habitats;

Whereas section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) (commonly known as the “Clean Water Act”) authorizes the development of comprehensive conservation and management plans to ensure that the designated uses of estuaries are protected and to restore and maintain—

(1) chemical, physical, and biological integrity;

(2) water quality;

(3) the balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife; and

(4) recreational activity;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) provides that the policy of the United States is to preserve, protect, develop, and, if possible, restore or enhance the resources of the coastal zones of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 34 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories of the United States operate or contain a National Estuary Program or a National Estuarine Research Reserve;

Whereas scientific study leads to a better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas the Federal Government, State, local, and Tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas coastal and marine habitat restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost-effective manner, generating an average of 17 jobs for every \$1,000,000 invested and helping to reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas the week of September 20 through September 27, 2025, is recognized as “National Estuaries Week” to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal Government and State, local, and Tribal government officials, of the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of “National Estuaries Week”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

(3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and to the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

(4) recognizes that persistent threats undermine the health of estuaries;

(5) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

(6) supports the scientific study, preservation, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

(7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3909. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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 3910. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3911. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3912. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. WYDEN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 269, to improve coordination between Federal and State agencies and the Do Not Pay working system.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 3909.** Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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 X, insert the following:

**SEC. 10.** *ADDITIONAL ENTITLEMENT TO POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO REQUIRE EXTRA TIME TO COMPLETE REMEDIAL COURSES.*

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subchapter II of chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

#### “§3320A. Additional assistance

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The number of months of educational assistance under section 3313 of this title an eligible individual is entitled to under section 3312 of this title is hereby increased by the lesser of—

“(1) 15 months; or

“(2) in the case of an eligible individual who attempted or completed remedial and deficiency courses as described in subsection (b)(4), the full-time equivalent number of months of educational assistance used under this chapter to complete such remedial and deficiency courses.

“(b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—For purposes of this section, an eligible individual is an individual—

“(1) who is or was entitled to educational assistance under section 3311 of this title;

“(2) has received educational assistance under this chapter at any time during the most recent six month period;

“(3) who has used all of the educational assistance to which the individual is entitled under this chapter; and

“(4) who has attempted or completed remedial and deficiency courses in pursuit of completing a program of education at an institution of higher learning and in doing so requires more than the standard 120 semester (or 180 quarter) credit hours for completion of a program of education at an institution of higher learning.

“(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘institution of higher learning’ has the meaning given such term in section 3452 of this title.

“(2) The term ‘remedial and deficiency course’ means a course offered by an institution of higher learning that is designed to overcome a deficiency.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3320 the following new item:

#### “3320A. Additional assistance.”.

(c) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 3695 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) In the case of an individual who receives additional educational assistance under section 3320A of this title, the number of months specified in subsection (a) shall instead be construed to specify the number of months that is equal to the sum of—

“(1) such number of months; and

“(2) the amount of the increase in number of months of educational assistance to which the individual is entitled pursuant to section 3320A(a) of such title.”.

**SEC. 10.** *INCREASED FLEXIBILITY IN TRANSFERRING ENTITLEMENT TO POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.*

Section 3319 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and indenting such subparagraphs appropriately;

(B) in the matter before subparagraph (A), as redesignated by subparagraph (A), by striking “An” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph (2):

“(2) TIMING OF DESIGNATION.—In the case of an individual who elects to transfer entitlement under subsection (a) but who at the time of the election does not have any eligible dependents, the individual may carry out the designations required by paragraph (1) when the individual comes to have an eligible dependent to whom the individual would like to transfer entitlement under this section.”; and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively; and

(C) in paragraph (1)(A), as redesignated by subparagraph (B), by inserting “, including by designating a new dependent or dependents to receive the unused entitlement” before the period.

**SA 3910.** Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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. STUDY ON HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG SPOUSES AND DEPENDENTS OF VIETNAM-ERA HERBICIDE-EXPOSED VETERANS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Toxic Exposure Research Working Group established under section 501 of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-168; 136 Stat. 1785) (in this section referred to as the “Working Group”) shall conduct a study on the diagnoses of health conditions among spouses and dependents of Vietnam-era herbicide-exposed veterans.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include an assessment and comprehensive review of diagnoses of health conditions among spouses and dependents of Vietnam-era herbicide-exposed veterans, including—

(1) cancers;

(2) gynecological conditions, including infertility;

(3) birth defects; and

(4) birth and pregnancy-related complications, including miscarriages.

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) REPORT ON STUDY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Following the completion of the study under subsection (a), the Working Group shall submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs a report on the results of the study.

(B) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) a summary of the research and other activities carried out as part of the study; and

(ii) recommendations to improve early screening, detection, prevention, and treat-

ment of health conditions of spouses and dependents of Vietnam-era herbicide-exposed veterans.

(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than December 31, 2027, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives—

(A) an unaltered version of the report required under paragraph (1); and

(B) an assessment by the Secretary of the findings and recommendations of the study required under subsection (a), including a plan for implementing the recommendations.

(d) VIETNAM-ERA HERBICIDE-EXPOSED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Vietnam-era herbicide-exposed veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 1710(e)(4)(A) of title 38, United States Code.

**SA 3911.** Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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. EXPANSION OF SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES TO INCLUDE FORMER MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

(a) EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Section 2044 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “veteran” and inserting “eligible”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “veteran families” and inserting “eligible families”;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “veteran families” and inserting “eligible families”; and

(C) in paragraph (6), by striking “veteran family” and inserting “eligible family”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “veteran families” and inserting “eligible families”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D)(vii), by striking “veteran family” and inserting “eligible family”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “veteran families” and inserting “eligible families”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “veteran families” and inserting “eligible families”;

(4) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “veteran families” each place it appears and inserting “eligible families”;

(5) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “veteran families” and inserting “eligible families”; and

(6) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (6)(A)—

(i) by striking “very low-income veteran family” and inserting “very low-income eligible family”; and

(ii) by striking “a veteran family” and inserting “an eligible family”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

“(7) The term ‘eligible family’ includes—

“(A) a veteran who is a single person;

“(B) a family in which the head of household or the spouse of the head of household is a veteran;

“(C) a former member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces who has retired or separated from service after having served a term of enlistment and is a single person; and

“(D) a family in which the head of household or spouse of the head of household is a former member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces who has retired or separated from service after having served a term of enlistment.”.

(b) FUNDING.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (8), by striking “through 2025” and inserting “through 2026”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (8) as subparagraphs (A) through (H), respectively;

(3) by inserting “(1)” before “From amounts”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2)(A) Of amounts available under paragraph (1)(H) for fiscal year 2026, \$50,000,000 shall be available to carry out subsections (a), (b), and (c) with respect to eligible families described in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of subsection (f)(7).

“(B) Any amounts made available under subparagraph (A) to carry out subsections (a), (b), and (c) with respect to eligible families described in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of subsection (f)(7) that remain available after supportive services have been provided to such families under this section shall be available during fiscal year 2026 to carry out subsections (a), (b), and (c) with respect to eligible families described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of such subsection.”.

**SEC. 1068. STUDY ON FOOD AND HOUSING INSECURITY EXPERIENCED BY MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

(a) REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF STUDY.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report detailing plans to establish a study to analyze food and housing insecurity experienced by members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces.

(b) CONDUCT OF STUDY.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the report required by subsection (a) is submitted, the Secretary of Defense shall begin conducting the study described in such subsection.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date on which the report required by subsection (a) is submitted, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report including the findings of the study conducted pursuant to subsection (b).

(d) RESERVE COMPONENT DEFINED.—In this section, the term “reserve component” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

**SA 3912.** Mr. THUNE (for Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. WYDEN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 269, to improve coordination between Federal and State agencies and the Do Not Pay working system; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Ending Improper Payments to Deceased People Act”.

**SEC. 2. IMPROVING COORDINATION BETWEEN FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES AND THE DO NOT PAY WORKING SYSTEM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 205(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)), as amended by section 801(a)(7) of title VIII of division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act,

2021 (Public Law 116-260), is amended by striking paragraph (11) and inserting the following:

“(11) The Commissioner of Social Security shall, to the extent feasible, provide information furnished to the Commissioner under paragraph (1) to the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system described in section 3354(c) of title 31, United States Code, for the authorized uses of the Do Not Pay working system to help prevent improper payments of, and support the recovery of improperly paid, benefits or other payments through a cooperative arrangement with such agency, provided that the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3) are met with respect to such arrangement with such agency. The Commissioner of Social Security and the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system shall, while the data described in the preceding sentence is being provided to the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system, enter into an agreement based upon an agreed upon methodology, which covers the proportional share of State death data costs, which the Commissioner of Social Security and the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system may periodically review.

“(12) The Commissioner of Social Security may not record a death to a record that may be provided under this section for any individual unless the Commissioner of Social Security has found it has clear and convincing evidence to support that the individual should be presumed to be deceased.”.

(b) IMPROVING COORDINATION REGARDING INDIVIDUALS INCORRECTLY IDENTIFIED AS DECEASED.—Section 205(r)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)(7)), as added by section 801(a)(4) of title VIII of division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260), is amended by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (A), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting “; and”, and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) notify any agency that has a cooperative arrangement with the Commissioner of Social Security under paragraph (3) or (11) of the error.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on December 27, 2026.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to Anel Galvez, Radhika Prabhu, and Jacob Baldus for the duration of their legislative fellowships.

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

#### ENDING IMPROPER PAYMENTS TO DECEASED PEOPLE ACT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 269 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 269) to improve coordination between Federal and State agencies and the Do Not Pay working system.

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

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

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

The amendment (No. 3912), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Ending Improper Payments to Deceased People Act”.

#### SEC. 2. IMPROVING COORDINATION BETWEEN FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES AND THE DO NOT PAY WORKING SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 205(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)), as amended by section 801(a)(7) of title VIII of division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260), is amended by striking paragraph (11) and inserting the following:

“(11) The Commissioner of Social Security shall, to the extent feasible, provide information furnished to the Commissioner under paragraph (1) to the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system described in section 3354(c) of title 31, United States Code, for the authorized uses of the Do Not Pay working system to help prevent improper payments of, and support the recovery of improperly paid, benefits or other payments through a cooperative arrangement with such agency, provided that the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3) are met with respect to such arrangement with such agency. The Commissioner of Social Security and the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system shall, while the data described in the preceding sentence is being provided to the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system, enter into an agreement based upon an agreed upon methodology, which covers the proportional share of State death data costs, which the Commissioner of Social Security and the agency operating the Do Not Pay working system may periodically review.

“(12) The Commissioner of Social Security may not record a death to a record that may be provided under this section for any individual unless the Commissioner of Social Security has found it has clear and convincing evidence to support that the individual should be presumed to be deceased.”.

(b) IMPROVING COORDINATION REGARDING INDIVIDUALS INCORRECTLY IDENTIFIED AS DECEASED.—Section 205(r)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)(7)), as added by section 801(a)(4) of title VIII of division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260), is amended by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (A), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting “; and”, and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) notify any agency that has a cooperative arrangement with the Commissioner of Social Security under paragraph (3) or (11) of the error.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on December 27, 2026.

The bill (S. 269), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third read-

ing, was read the third time, and passed.

#### RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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. 414, S. Res. 415, and S. Res. 416.

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

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and 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 (Legislative Day of September 16, 2025) under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

#### SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 20, 2025, AS “TELEHEALTH AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 417, which is at the desk.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 417) supporting the designation of the week of September 14 through September 20, 2025, as “Telehealth Awareness Week”.

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

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I know of no further debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 417) was agreed to.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that 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 preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD (Legislative Day of September 16, 2025) under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

#### NATIONAL TRUCK DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged

from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 225.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 225) designating the week of September 14 through September 20, 2025, as "National Truck Driver Appreciation Week".

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

Mr. THUNE. 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. 225) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of May 14, 2025, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

#### ELIMINATE SHUTDOWNS ACT—

##### Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 161, S. 2806.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2806) to provide for automatic continuing appropriations.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. 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 legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 161, S. 2806, a bill to provide for automatic continuing appropriations.

John Thune, Bernie Moreno, Mike Crapo, Chuck Grassley, Ashley B. Moody, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Pete Ricketts, Ted Budd, Bill Hagerty, John R. Curtis, David McCormick, Tim Scott of South Carolina, John Cornyn, Cynthia M. Lummis, Steve Daines.

#### ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025, THROUGH MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Sen-

ate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma session only, with no business being conducted, on the following days and times: Monday, September 22, at 8:30 a.m., and Thursday, September 25, at 12 noon; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, September 25, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, September 29; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 115, S. 2296; finally, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motion with respect to Executive Calendar No. 425 ripen at 5:30 p.m.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025, AT 8:30 A.M.

Mr. THUNE. Madam 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 2:34 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 22, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 19, 2025:

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MICHAEL G. WALTZ, OF FLORIDA, TO BE THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY, AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 154:

##### To be general

GEN. CHRISTOPHER J. MAHONEY

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

##### To be brigadier general

COL. SARA A. STIGLER  
COL. ROBERT B. TAYLOR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

##### To be brigadier general

COL. JOSHUA D. ARMSTRONG  
COL. RYAN D. AYERS  
COL. GAVIN M. BATCHELDER  
COL. JESSE R. CARLSON  
COL. TRAVIS J. CRAWMER  
COL. RYAN F. DANNEMAN  
COL. JOSEPH F. GEANEY  
COL. DAVID L. HALASI-KUN  
COL. CHAD E. HOLESKO  
COL. AMEE C. HOWARD  
COL. JARED P. KENNISH, JR.  
COL. CAROL J. KOHTZ  
COL. MATTHEW S. KOMATSU  
COL. BROCK E. LANGE  
COL. JEREMY C. PHILLIPS  
COL. DEREK B. ROUTT  
COL. DENISE K. SWEENEY  
COL. NATASHA S. TAYLOR  
COL. ERIC A. UNDERHILL  
COL. BART T. VAN ROO  
COL. LEAH V. VOELKER  
COL. SHELDON B. WILSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203 AND 12212:

##### To be brigadier general

COL. LYNN M. LEE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

##### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DANIEL M. FESLER  
BRIG. GEN. ROBERT E. HARGENS  
BRIG. GEN. TROY D. HAVENER  
BRIG. GEN. PATRICK L. LANAGHAN  
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM M. LEAHY  
BRIG. GEN. ALLISON C. MILLER  
BRIG. GEN. MARK R. MORRELL  
BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH F. MORRISSEY, JR.  
BRIG. GEN. JAMES R. PARRY  
BRIG. GEN. CARLA R. RINGER  
BRIG. GEN. STEPHANIE S. SAMENUS

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

##### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JAMES D. CLEET  
BRIG. GEN. JASON W. KNIGHT  
BRIG. GEN. GREGORY A. KRANE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

##### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER M. BLOMQUIST  
IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

##### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MONIE R. ULIS

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

##### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. HUMBERTO PABON, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 1203:

##### To be brigadier general

COL. RODERICK T. GRUNWALD

##### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JONATHAN P. BRAGA  
LT. GEN. MICHELE H. BREDENKAMP  
MAJ. GEN. WINSTON P. BROOKS  
MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH E. HILBERT  
MAJ. GEN. JAMES M. SMITH

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. KENYON K. BELL  
MAJ. GEN. ROBERT D. DAVIS  
MAJ. GEN. BRANDON D. PARKER

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH R. CLEARFIELD  
MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM H. SWAN

##### IN THE ARMY

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

##### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JOHN M. DRESKA

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS ASSISTANT COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 6044:

*To be general*

LT. GEN. BRADFORD J. GERING

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be admiral*

VICE ADM. GEORGE M. WIKOFF

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be vice admiral*

REAR ADM. HEIDI K. BERG

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH IAN S. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH SOMVANG XAYARATH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2025.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JARED L. BISHOP AND ENDING WITH ANTHONY V. SANTINO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 9, 2025.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AMY C. BROWN AND ENDING WITH SARAH M. WHEELER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2025.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARC G. CARNS AND ENDING WITH DAVID L. WALKER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2025.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DONELLA D. BEAULIEU AND ENDING WITH SARAH M. WHITSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2025.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALEXANDRA E. ABLES AND ENDING WITH ALEC J. ZIEMANN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2025.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SEAN T. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH CARLOS X. ZAMBRANO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2025.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANSEL V. AIKEN AND ENDING WITH TAYLOR E. ZURLINDEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2025.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER S. MORGAN AND ENDING WITH DAYLE P. PERCLE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 2, 2025.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF HARRISON E. PAYNE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF BENJAMIN A. BONNER, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL R. BARTON AND ENDING WITH KIRK V. THORSTEINSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 23, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEVEN J. ACKERSON AND ENDING WITH 0003789078, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHARLES M. ABEYAWARDENA AND ENDING WITH 0003951181, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES M. ACEVEDO AND ENDING WITH SHADRIKA Y. WITHERSPOON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES D. BROWNE, JR. AND ENDING WITH JOHN C. TOLIN, WHICH

NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PETER G. JUETTEN AND ENDING WITH ROBERT E. MURDOUGH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 2, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RICHARD A. BENSON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WILLIAM R. CARY AND ENDING WITH KYLE S. JASCHEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ERIC E. ABRAHAMSEN AND ENDING WITH JEFFREY W. WIESNER, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JONATHAN W. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH 0002254443, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NATASCHA R. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH NATHAN P. ZWINTSCHER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ADAM C. ECCLESTON, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CARSELL WALKER, JR., TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF STEPHEN A. NOORLAG, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRIAN M. GALLAVAN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SHARIF I. FARUQUE, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF KEATON H. HARRELL, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW S. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH ADAM YANG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF BRYAN J. LAROCHE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF PHUONG T. PHAM, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SARA R. DE GROOT AND ENDING WITH BRIAN KORN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 2, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOEL ALMANZANUEZ AND ENDING WITH DAVID A. WAKEMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRANDON L. BARKER AND ENDING WITH GRAHAM D. ZIEMBA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ERIC J. BLOMBERG AND ENDING WITH THOMAS A. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RIAZ M. ALI AND ENDING WITH WON H. YU, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LEONARD E. ABADAM AND ENDING WITH KELLYLYNN ZUNI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH HANNAH J. ADDOM-TETTEH AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM E. OMLALEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRANDY D. BENNETT AND ENDING WITH CHEOL YI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CALEB D. AABERG AND ENDING WITH DMITRIY YAKUBOV, WHICH

NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WILLIAM J. DEAN AND ENDING WITH BRENTON W. HEISSEMER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JESSICA L. ABBEY AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM Z. XU, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTINA M. ACOSTA AND ENDING WITH ANYA L. ZAPF, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ABRAHAM D. AGUS AND ENDING WITH DAVID ZHU, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ADAM E. BAYER AND ENDING WITH ZACHARY B. ZUMWALT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAMIAN R. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL S. YEARY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TEDDY G. AJERO, JR. AND ENDING WITH KENNETH E. ZITNIK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALEXANDER ALBA AND ENDING WITH SOBONDO J. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ZACHARY P. BRANCH AND ENDING WITH SHARLENA Y. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KARA L. BALLAS AND ENDING WITH JUSTIN K. WOOLEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ADAM M. ALLEMAN AND ENDING WITH ROSANNE M. WITT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025.

NAVY NOMINATION OF SCOTT A. METCALF, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHAN BAIK AND ENDING WITH BRETT K. CARTWRIGHT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL D. ALBERT AND ENDING WITH RICK H. YUAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 21, 2025.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROSALINDA M. ALFARO AND ENDING WITH WILLIE A. YOUNGBLOOD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 21, 2025.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIAN G. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH DAVID C. ZESINGER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 21, 2025.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIEL N. BANAKOS AND ENDING WITH JULIUS A. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 21, 2025.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN M. AGUIRRE AND ENDING WITH DEREK B. WORTH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 21, 2025.