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Senate

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God of our salvation, in spite of the challenges of today and tomorrow, we continue to look to You, our help in ages past and our hope for the seasons to come. May our lawmakers continually remember how You have led this Nation in the past as You give them inspiration and faith that You will also guide this land in all the days to come.

Lord, give our Senators strength, power, and wisdom for these grand and challenging times, empowering them to carve tunnels of hope through mountains of despair. Use them to defend our liberties and to unify our Nation and world until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

We pray in Your amazing Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2296, which the clerk will report.

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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

AGRICULTURE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, there is a not-so-perfect storm brewing for farmers in my State of Iowa and in agricultural States generally. Many factors are coming together—and all at once—like low grain prices, high input costs, consolidation in the industry, and uncertainty from trade and tariffs. It is beginning to look more and more like the 1980s to me.

One thing that concerns me is the lowering of land values in Iowa. Land value has gone down 3 percent since last year and down 5.4 percent since the same time in 2023. That is not as bad as it was in the 1980s. There was a very catastrophic drop in prices compared to what I just quoted you for now. And in the 1980s, that didn't happen overnight; it kind of crept up on us very slowly. We don't want to let that happen again, so we need to be vigilant today.

When it comes to land prices, as you know, if farmers lose too much land value, they won't be able to leverage against it for debt to cover their expenses. That happened in the 1980s, and as I said, it kind of crept up on us at that particular time, and Congress didn't see it coming soon enough. Congress waited too long to act. Farmers had been pleading with Congress for 2 or 3 years in the 1980s before Congress was able to pass some help for the farmers. In the meantime, farmers went bankrupt, and a lot of farmers were lost due to suicide.

Now, that may sound like everyday business, but if you have been operating a family farm and you were the fifth or sixth generation doing that and you lost it because of bankruptcy, low prices, land values going down, you become depressed and ashamed, and I am sure that is why a lot of people committed suicide.

Now we have a farm safety net in place. We have tried to be on top of farmers' mental health to a greater extent than in the past. So hopefully all these bad things that happened in the 1980s won't happen again. But I am here saying I don't want to see it happen again. We can't be complacent, knowing the history of Congress being too slow to act. So Congress ought to act now, before it is too late.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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



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S6943

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.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, we are now in day 6 of the Democrats' government shutdown—day 6—and I am wondering just what exactly Democrats think they are gaining from all of this. I guess they are getting points from the far-left interest groups that they have been coordinating their shutdown strategy with, but I highly doubt they are earning a lot of points with everyday, hard-working Americans, like the voters they lost in the last election.

A Reuters headline from Thursday noted "US government shutdown threatens food-aid program for low-income Americans."

Let me just read that again: "US government shutdown threatens food-aid program for low-income Americans."

The article noted that while the Trump Agriculture Department is doing its best to continue administering the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children—more commonly known as WIC—the program is "critically low on funds." And it won't get new funds until Democrats agree to reopen the government.

Democrats own this. They own any lapse in funding for critical food aid programs, just as they own every other negative effect of the shutdown because—let's remember—the only reason the government is shut down is because Democrats refuse to accept a clean, nonpartisan funding extension—a clean, nonpartisan funding extension.

We didn't ask Democrats to swallow any new Republican policies. We didn't ask them to swallow any partisan riders. We simply asked them to agree to a clean, nonpartisan bill.

The same kind of bill, I might add, that they voted for 13 times—13 times—during the Biden administration. But Democrats said: No. And I should note that you don't have to take my word for it on the facts of the bill. Republicans aren't the only ones pointing out that this is a clean CR.

Here is what the president of the Teamsters Union had to say the other day:

A shutdown will hurt working people. Period. . . . Senators should . . . pass the House-passed clean, short-term funding bill.

"Senators should pass the House-passed clean short-term funding bill."

Again, that was the president of the Teamsters Union.

Or, you know, you could take the word of a mainstream journalist who recently noted:

In a vacuum, this CR would get almost every Democratic vote. It just would. This is

a clean CR that has no partisan riders, extends a bunch of programs that are Democratic priorities . . . it's clean.

"It's clean."

So to summarize, Democrats have shut down the government because they refuse to accept a clean, nonpartisan bill. And why are they refusing to accept it? After all, as I mentioned, they supported similar bills 13 times during the Biden administration.

The reason that they refuse to accept it is that Democrats still cannot get over the fact that the American people elected President Trump. And when their far-left base demanded a showdown with the President, the Democrats fell in line. And now it is the American people who are suffering the consequences.

I quote again. "U.S. government shutdown threatens food-aid program for low-income Americans."

"[T]hreatens food aid program for low-income Americans."

Three Democrats have rejected their party's shutdown politics and voted with Republicans to reopen the government. All Democrats will get another chance to vote to reopen the government later today, and for the sake of the American people, I hope at least a few more Democrats will join us to pass this clean, nonpartisan CR and let the Senate get back to work.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 459.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jennifer Lee Mascott, of Delaware, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The 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. 459, Jennifer Lee Mascott, of Delaware, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

John Thune, Jim Justice, Ashley B. Moody, Steve Daines, Thom Tillis, Rick Scott of Florida, Roger Marshall, David McCormick, Tom Cotton, Kevin Cramer, John R. Curtis, Marsha Blackburn, Lindsey Graham, Pete Ricketts, Mike Lee, Ron Johnson, Mike Rounds.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today is the sixth day—the sixth day—of Donald Trump's government shutdown. Senate Democrats returned to Washington ready to negotiate. We are ready to work with Republicans to reopen the government and end the healthcare crisis that faces tens of millions of Americans.

But it takes two sides to have a negotiation. We need the Senate Republicans and the House Republicans and the President to come to the table. And, meanwhile, Donald Trump and Speaker JOHNSON seem to be on another planet.

Instead of trying to solve this shutdown crisis, Donald Trump spent the weekend golfing and posting memes and deepfakes on the internet. He seems to think this shutdown is some big joke.

He is wrong. People will lose their paychecks; seniors will see Social Security support services slow down; there will be chaos for travelers. This shutdown is all on Donald Trump's shoulders, and Americans agree, according to the polls.

Poll after poll after poll, from CBS to the Washington Post, to Marist, to Morning Consult, and many others, consistently showed that the public sees the President as most responsible for the shutdown. He is in charge. His party holds majorities across the government.

So Americans naturally and correctly believe the burden is on him to fix this mess. Speaker JOHNSON, meanwhile, has canceled yet another week of session for the House. Why? Because the Speaker knows House Republicans are bitterly divided on healthcare. He knows a large chunk of his conference doesn't want to fix people's premiums at all—the rightwing MAGA folks.

Meanwhile, some of his less-extreme Members feel a necessity to fix this mess. The Speaker knows these divisions in his conference are serious and deep.

So what does the Speaker do with these divisions in his conference, almost irreconcilable? He ducks. He chooses the politically expedient way out. He keeps the Congress out of session for weeks at a time, passes to the Senate a partisan bill with no Democratic input.

That is not leadership. That is derelict.

Even today, the Speaker said that we can deal with the ACA crisis sometime later. He said: Wait, kick the can down the road, to postpone any negotiation until the very last minute.

Speaker JOHNSON—I ask him the question—why the wait? Why not solve this crisis now?

If you are not ready to solve it now, how do we know you are going to solve it 45 days from now, when you won't even do it now, and the same reasons that hold you back now will exist then?

Insurers are waiting around to set rates for next year. They are doing it right now, not 3 months from now.

Delay has always been Speaker JOHNSON's MO. Speaker JOHNSON has survived by kicking the can down the road on every major issue under his speakership, promising everyone that the thing they wanted is just around the corner.

He did it repeatedly with the Freedom Caucus, for instance, and he is doing the same thing now with healthcare. If Speaker JOHNSON is serious about lowering costs and protecting the healthcare of the American people, why wait?

Most of America, when JOHNSON says "later," they know he means "never."

Democrats want to deal with the healthcare problem now. A recent poll by KFF shows that 80 percent of Americans want to extend the ACA tax credits, including 60 percent of MAGA Republicans. That is where the people are.

A CBS poll also found that 75 percent of Americans don't think the administration is focused enough on lowering costs.

Well, lowering healthcare premiums would be one of the very best ways to lower costs because those costs are going through the roof. Many estimates show the average American will pay a thousand dollars more for healthcare.

Listen to this. If you are a 55-year-old couple who makes \$80,000 a year, your premiums could go up \$25,000 a year. How is anyone going to deal with that issue? Why is JOHNSON waiting?

But yet again, Speaker JOHNSON and MAGA Republicans continue to lie and change the subject. Donald Trump does the same thing. The Speaker today, once again, lied—that the Democrats' proposal would provide healthcare benefits to undocumented immigrants. He even cited page number and section within our proposal that he says supposedly proves the point.

Of course, our proposal doesn't say that, as the Sunday show talk commentators JOHNSON sat down with this weekend pointed out, and he had no real rebuttal. Saying that the Democrats' proposal provides health insurance to undocumented immigrants is, plain and simple, a blatant lie. It was a lie yesterday. It is a lie today. It will be a lie tomorrow.

Nothing in our proposal, not even the page the Speaker keeps citing, changes that, as fact-checkers have repeatedly

pointed out—independent fact-checkers, not Democrats, not Republicans, just experts.

Undocumented immigrants are not eligible for Medicaid, Medicare, or ACA credits under current law or under the Democratic continuing resolution proposal. It has been the law for decades.

Instead, here is what Democrats want to do. We want to reverse the devastating cuts to American healthcare that Republicans passed in their "Big Ugly Bill." We want to extend the ACA tax credits that lower costs for eligible Americans. These are the plain facts.

But Speaker JOHNSON and Republicans don't want to deal with the facts. They don't want to talk about healthcare because they know the American people are appalled by their healthcare policies. So, instead, they lie and change the subject. And Speaker JOHNSON and the House Republicans would rather duck out of town than come into session and do their jobs.

You know, when Leader JEFFRIES and I met with the President, he, of all people, seemed to at least somewhat appreciate the immense harm of letting these ACA credits expire. Of course, we had to walk the President through it first because it seemed he had no clue of the crisis before our meeting.

But, frankly, what should happen now is this. The President should lean on Speaker JOHNSON to relent on his extreme refusal to negotiate. It is not a sustainable position for the Speaker to literally shut the entire House down and not do anything to solve this crisis.

Again, why wait? Democrats are ready to solve this now. We urge Donald Trump to get Speaker JOHNSON and our Republican colleagues to come to the table with Leader JEFFRIES and me to negotiate and address this problem and fix it once and for all.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, it is very obvious that Democrats are losing the Schumer shutdown. Even their media allies are turning against them.

Here is an editorial from today's Washington Post. The headline is "The shutdown conversation no one wants."

The Washington Post editorial board, today, wrote this:

Democrats have demanded that Republicans agree to extend the covid-era insurance subsidies without proposing any way to pay for it.

They go on to say:

The Congressional Budget Office estimates this will cost \$350 billion over the next decade.

Now, that is the Washington Post talking, not Republicans. So it is no surprise that Democrats are avoiding this conversation.

Obamacare is broken. Obamacare is a failure. And now Democrats are holding the American people hostage to prop it up.

The Biden bonus COVID payments are a bait and switch. Democrats cre-

ated them in 2021, but they did it as a temporary COVID program. They extended them temporarily to 2022. They set an end date from this year, when they extended them once again.

Now, these same Democrats are demanding that they become permanent, at a cost of \$350 billion. It is unacceptable. This is a system that is riddled with waste, with fraud, abuse, and corruption.

Big insurance companies are rewarded with direct payments from the Federal Government to the insurance companies. Hard-working taxpayers are left holding the bill. In many of these policies, there are no premiums, no deductibles, no income limit, no accountability. Even families making a half million dollars a year, they still qualify for these Biden bonus COVID payments.

This is reckless, permanent new spending. The American people can't afford it. The American people know it. And even the Washington Post knows it and has reported on it today.

Democrats lost the election. They have lost their media allies, and now they have lost the argument.

On a related matter, here we are on day six of the Schumer shutdown. Senate Democrats have now voted four separate times to keep our government closed. Radical Democrats are shutting down the government with an outlandish list of demands, and the Presiding Officer has seen them. Included in that list is giving free healthcare to illegal immigrants.

When the interests of Americans and illegal immigrants collide, Democrats always seek to benefit the latter at the expense of the former. Think back to the last Democrat primary for President, back in June of 2019, when they were having a big debate on live television. There were so many candidates that they actually had to do it on two separate nights to get them all on the stage.

Every running candidate for President was asked in that one debate if their platform would give free healthcare to illegal immigrants. Every single Democrat candidate on the debate stage that night raised their hand and said yes. Every one of them promised to give free healthcare to illegal immigrants.

Senator BERNIE SANDERS was on the stage that night; he raised his hand. Senator GILLIBRAND of New York was on the stage that night; she raised her hand. Yes, free healthcare to illegal immigrants.

Those are current Members of the U.S. Senate who voted to shut the government down. They voted four times in the last 6 days.

And it is more than talk. When Democrats get power, that is exactly what they are going to do.

Look at California. In 2024, Governor Gavin Newsom expanded State-sponsored healthcare to illegal immigrants. He actually bragged about it. So there is no hiding from this.

One year later, the Los Angeles Times reported that, by doing this, costs had tripled. It was a headline dated March 13 of this year. It says:

Cost of undocumented healthcare in California is billions over estimates—

They go on to say—

pressuring Democrats to consider cuts.

Instead of \$3 billion a year, the California healthcare system costs taxpayers \$9.5 billion, by providing healthcare to illegal immigrants.

California financed its healthcare for illegal immigrants through a money laundering scheme aimed at the Federal Government. They used it to increase the State's Medicaid payments from the Federal Government directly to the State of California. This is money vacuumed away from hard-working Americans and from the vulnerable people in this country, our friends and neighbors, who need Medicaid the most. What did California do with it? They used it for illegal immigrants, not for U.S. citizens.

President Joe Biden and the Democrats—they went even further. Apparently, they weren't liberal enough in doing that. Joe Biden created multiple illegal parole programs when he was President. It was a blatant attempt at amnesty by the sleight of hand. Parole is supposed to be rare, it is supposed to be temporary, and it is supposed to be case by case. And I am talking about the flood of illegal immigrants that have come into this country across our southern border. People saw them on television. Joe Biden abused Presidential parole authority and turned our law on its head.

Democrats made noncitizens who were paroled eligible for free healthcare. Look no further than the illegal immigrant who murdered 22-year-old nursing student Laken Riley in Georgia. He crossed the border illegally in 2022. The Biden administration released him into our country instead of removing him. The Biden administration paroled him for what they claimed were "urgent humanitarian reasons of significant public benefit." And then he murdered a nursing student. Joe Biden made Laken Riley's killer eligible for taxpayer-funded healthcare.

Democrats even promised free healthcare as an enticement to attract illegal immigrants to our southern border. It was a magnet.

Well, Democrats have now shut down the government. Why? To defend a system where Laken Riley's killer can get taxpayer-funded, free healthcare. That is who they are. Those are their beliefs. That is their commitment—not to the American people but to the illegal immigrants.

Well, Republicans closed the loophole. Our working-families tax cuts put in place strong eligibility verification requirements. So that person can't qualify anymore or anyone like him. It also ended the gimmicks that allowed California to fund healthcare for illegal

immigrants through higher Federal Medicaid payments, the way they syphon money from the Federal Government into California to pay for illegal immigrants.

Meanwhile, what we have seen is that President Trump and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem rightfully terminated all of these Joe Biden categorical parole programs. He should have never let them in in the first place. Now we have terminated it.

The Supreme Court was called into play in an action here. The Supreme Court upheld this decision by the Trump administration after several rounds of leftwing lawfare.

President Trump is securing our border. He is putting American citizens first, not illegal immigrants. That is the difference between our parties. Democrats want to undo all of that. That is why they are holding the Nation hostage by shutting down the government. That is what this fight is all about.

Let's be clear. By shutting down the government, Democrats are putting illegal immigrants ahead of American citizens—ahead of our veterans, ahead of our military, ahead of our seniors, ahead of our children. It is reckless, it is radical, and it is wrong. It is time for it to end.

So today, the Senate is going to vote for a fifth time on our bipartisan continuing resolution, and we want to reopen government. It passed the House with bipartisan support. The Senate this evening will have a simple choice once again: vote to reopen the government and put America first and Americans first or vote with Senator SCHUMER to put illegal immigrants ahead of the American people.

Voting with CHUCK SCHUMER tonight will keep the government closed.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION RAIDS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, on Friday, in the midst of a Republican-led government shutdown, President Trump revealed his priorities. It isn't to protect the healthcare, the health insurance of millions of Americans who are about to lose their insurance or see premiums skyrocket. No, that is not it.

The President's priority is to deploy militarized immigration agents and National Guard troops to more American cities. Why? Purely for political theater and to advance his extreme agenda.

In the early morning hours of Tuesday last week, while this government barreled toward a shutdown, President Donald Trump launched a military law

enforcement assault on the city of Chicago. In the city's Southside neighborhood, hundreds—hundreds—of Federal agents, many hiding their faces with masks, rappelled from Black Hawk helicopters, darted out of disguised moving trucks, armed with military-grade weapons, to descend on a targeted apartment building in the city of Chicago. They swarmed through the building, knocking down doors, tearing up homes.

It appears these agents knew nothing in advance about the residents whose homes they were destroying. In fact, in the dead of night, Federal agents reportedly started checking on the residents as they brought them out of the building, residents that included American citizens and children. They checked on them to see if maybe they had an outstanding warrant for their arrest or were undocumented.

Picture this, if you will: You are with your family in an apartment building, a helicopter lands on the roof, Federal agents with masks on batter down your doors, drag you and your children out of their beds into the street, and start an interrogation as to whether there is any undocumented person present.

America.

Many were yanked from their homes and their beds and detained shirtless and without clothing. Some were detained using zip ties, including children. Here is what one witness of the events said:

Kids were crying. People were screaming. They looked very distraught. I was out there crying when I saw the little girl coming around the corner, because they were bringing the kids down, too. [They] had them zip tied [together].

In the middle of the night in the city of Chicago, an assault on an apartment building in America. The witness continued:

One of [the agents] laughed [out loud]. He said "f*** them kids."

Four U.S. citizen kids with undocumented parents were separated from their parents who were taken into custody.

Secretary Kristi Noem's Department of Homeland Security posted to social media a highly produced video of the raid—her version of the story—because that is all this is to them, a promotional video, political theater. But the human toll has been immense.

What if it were your child yanked out of his bed in the middle of the night, hands zip-tied behind him, brought down with few, if any, clothes on, standing in the street, while all this is happening, watching his parents be arrested in America?

In another case, ICE agents fired a pepper ball into CBS Chicago reporter Asal Rezaei's car. What was her crime? Driving by the Broadview ICE facility to report on the protests there. It is known in the Constitution as freedom of the press. It doesn't seem to impress Kristi Noem.

I have long fought for humane reforms on our immigration system on a

bipartisan basis and evidence-based ways to reduce crimes in our city. If the President is serious about fixing our immigration system or lowering crime in our communities, I am all in. But sending in militarized Federal immigration agents and National Guard troops to terrorize Chicago or any American community in any State is not the American way.

These actions have accomplished, I believe, the President's true intention here: spreading fear in America, especially among immigrant communities.

And he has been very successful. I go to these communities virtually every weekend when I return to Illinois. I meet with the people who live there. They are scared to death, people who have been here for years, no criminal record, no reason to be removed, working and paying taxes are afraid to shop and afraid to go to church.

Last week, on the floor, I warned about this, and I have for some time now. The President's decision to unleash military personnel against the city of Chicago and American communities is another pillar in his master plan to weaponize the Federal Government against those he views as "the enemy within." Where did that phrase come from? From the mouth of the President of the United States speaking to the military leaders of the United States. He told them to be fearful of "the enemy within" and to use American cities as their training ground.

Think of that. White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller ranted to law enforcement agents on the eve of their Memphis deployment that they were, "unleashed." Stephen Miller's word, "unleashed." Does that sound like law and order? Does that sound like the rule of law? "Unleashed."

In addition to Memphis and Chicago, this President has targeted cities like Los Angeles and Portland, reckless immigration raids, unnecessary deployment of military power over the objection of State and local officials. I fear these disturbing developments are the latest indicators that we are on a slippery slope into control by the Trump regime.

The President is attempting to overturn the Department of Justice, the FBI, ICE, and the military into his own personal police force. This not only erodes trust between communities and the people tasked with protecting them, it is an existential threat to civil liberty, the rule of law, and the core of values of who we are as Americans.

This is what is at stake. This is a defining moment we are in. In times like these, you have a choice. You can stand up and speak out or you can be silent or maybe you can cheer. It is your choice as Americans. But think about if it were your family in the middle of the night, people crashing through the doors yanking you and your children out of bed into the street, arresting people.

Remember what the goal was when we got started with this? The President

made it very clear. We were after undocumented people, illegal people in the United States who were rapists, murderers, terrorists, criminally insane, and child predators. The President was very explicit. These are the people we are going after. We will tell you their names as we arrest them.

So what percentage of those that have been arrested with this mass deportation detained by ICE, what percentage of them have a criminal record? Fewer than 30 percent. By a 2-to-1 margin, innocent people are being dragged into this in the middle of the night in the city of Chicago in an apartment building. Children are being treated like pawns in the Trump political game.

Today, Illinois attorney general Kwame Raoul filed a lawsuit to block the administration's unconstitutional attempt to deploy troops in Illinois.

I join with all of my Democratic colleagues in the Illinois delegation who are calling on the President to immediately rescind this unnecessary and dangerous deployment of the military to Illinois.

I have spoken personally to the Governor of our State, JB Pritzker, several times this weekend amidst this development. He did not ask for the National Guard troops to be sent in from Texas or anyplace. There is no need for it to either protect Federal facilities or to protect the people living in the city of Chicago.

I am going to continue speaking out as the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and I appeal to my Republican colleagues who are watching this in silence: It could be you. You could have an opportunity soon for the President to send in troops.

It is not likely as much from the Republican side, as very few of their communities have been targeted, but if you happen to live in a State that didn't vote for Donald Trump, buckle up. He is coming down on you, whether it is California, Oregon, or Illinois.

I will close with this: At that Tuesday morning raid, videos taken at the scene showed detained immigrants being held in an adjacent parking lot across the street. A woman is seen and heard calling out in broken Spanish:

I will always love you.

Where is the humanity in tearing families apart?

If there is a dangerous person, for God's sake, put him in a separate category, but families who are doing their best to get by and struggle, who work and pay taxes, and who have children who are citizens of the United States should never be treated like this in America.

In an interview recently, Secretary Noem was quoted as saying:

This country is a country of laws. If you don't like the laws, go change them. We are enforcing them.

She said:

That is sending a message to the whole world.

The Secretary is right. The administration certainly sent a message in Chicago on Tuesday night—a shameful message and one that shouldn't be part of American history.

Terrorizing families with midnight raids and troops in our streets is writing a shameful chapter in our Nation's history. This is going to make America great again?

President Trump is not intent on fighting crime; he is intent on spreading fear. In doing so, he is destroying the values which define us as Americans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, it has been 6 days since Senate Democrats have shut down the Federal Government. They have done this by blocking a clean continuing resolution, as it is called around here, a stopgap spending bill that would take us to November 21 to provide enough time to try to work out appropriations bills for full-year funding, which are highly preferable to simply operating on autopilot, as a continuing resolution would do.

This has already passed the House of Representatives, so all we need to do to reopen the government is to have five Democrats—five Democrats—join three other Democrats and Republicans to vote to reopen the government—not forever but for the next 9 weeks or so.

Let's not forget that it was partisan antics on their part that brought us to where we are today. We have now voted not just once but four times on the House-passed, clean government funding bill. While three Democrats have seen the light, as I said earlier, and have joined Republicans in voting for a clean continuing resolution, they have routinely done this in the past. When President Biden was in office and when CHUCK SCHUMER was the majority leader, we voted for, I think, 13 separate continuing resolutions, but so far, they have refused to do so out of pure spite and partisanship.

Government shutdowns have, unfortunately, become far too common in Washington, but I think it is important to take a minute to consider the impact—the real-world impact—on our constituents back home.

Since Texas is obviously one of the largest States in the country, it will suffer an outsized impact.

The Lone Star State is home to about 130,000 Federal civilian employees. This number includes 33,000 who work with the Veterans Health Administration. These are the folks who serve our veterans, whom we are dutybound and obligated—morally obligated—to support. But 33,000 of them will be negatively impacted by this shutdown. They already have been.

Almost 18,000 of this total number work for U.S. Customs and Border Protection. These are the folks who stop illegal drugs from entering into the

country and make sure that illegal aliens don't make their way into the country, as we have seen during the last 4 years.

Close to 6,000 Texans work for the Transportation Security Administration, the folks you encounter at airports and various different ports that help manage the flow of travelers going to and from security screenings before they board flights.

Finally, the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Texas has 3,000 employees but is expected to furlough about 70 percent of them due to the lapse in Federal funding.

What happens to these Federal employees during a government shutdown? Well, the most dramatic thing that happens to them is they don't get paid. Even those who are deemed essential and who have to work, they work without pay, just as those who are furloughed go without pay.

Before I came to the floor, I looked up a statistic, and I think it sounds about right, but 6 of out of 10 Americans live paycheck to paycheck. While it may be OK for Members of Congress—particularly wealthy Members of Congress, who don't have to worry about living paycheck to paycheck—to miss a paycheck is catastrophic to many, many Americans who live paycheck to paycheck, who don't have adequate savings to help them weather a government shutdown.

While each of these categories receives backpay once the government is reopened, they cannot receive a paycheck during the shutdown. This is extraordinarily unfair to these government employees, who, through no fault of their own, are being denied the pay that they have earned.

This will have a particularly serious impact on our military and Department of Homeland Security personnel, many of whom have been designated as "excepted"—or we used to say that some were essential employees. But they have to stay on the job, in other words. But they don't get paid either.

Texas has 15 Active-Duty military installations, where personnel are required to continue reporting to duty throughout this shutdown. These Active-Duty personnel will not be paid, again, until a final funding deal is reached. And right now, we don't know how long this is going to go on.

I know most of us come to the floor and express our gratitude—our profound gratitude—to our men and women in uniform, and their families, who serve our country and keep us safe, but this strikes me as a very bad way to say thank you to them by saying: Yes, you have to continue to work, but, no, you are not going to be paid.

Senate Democrats, apparently, have made that calculation. This is how they thank them, by cutting off their pay, denying them their livelihood, and holding them hostage over petty, partisan demands.

In addition to Active-Duty military personnel, I mentioned Customs and

Border Protection. All of them are expected to continue reporting for duty, day in and day out, during a government shutdown.

To our Border Patrol agents, who bore the brunt of Biden's open border policies, working hundreds of hours in some of the harshest of conditions, and who have processed millions of illegal aliens flooding into the United States, courtesy of President Biden, now we are telling them—or at least Senate Democrats are telling them: You are not going to get paid. This is how they have chosen to reward these patriotic men and women who keep our borders secure, shutting down the government and denying them their paychecks.

And why do Senate Democrats think this is so important? Well, they have told us what their demands are, what the ransom is that they are demanding. They want us to wipe out a \$50 billion rural hospital stabilization fund that was part of the One Big Beautiful Bill.

Many of us represent rural States that have large rural areas, and access to healthcare is a big, big problem. We have tried to address that problem by providing a significant fund—this rural hospital stabilization fund—to help address those concerns. But Democrats want to take that away.

We also said in the One Big Beautiful Bill that no money can go to provide healthcare for illegal aliens. Access to free government services is one of the magnets that draw people to come to our country in the first place. This is one of the so-called pull factors that the Border Patrol talks about. And we said no more—no more free healthcare for illegal aliens, which is a magnet for people to enter the country the wrong way, not the right way. Democrats want to restore that free healthcare to illegal aliens as part of their demands for reopening the government.

This is simply unconscionable, but it is also profoundly dumb. Shutting down the government solves nothing. We have seen this movie before. And what happens, when you reopen the government, is the same problems, the same issues that caused you to shut down the government are there staring you in the face. So these shutdowns solve nothing.

I don't know how Senate Democrats can continue voting against a clean government funding bill, like they themselves have previously supported on a routine basis, knowing that the men and women who keep them and us safe are working for free, without a paycheck, for no other reason than that Senate Democrats refuse to give up on their partisan pipe dreams.

FEMA employees—the Federal Emergency Management Agency—who are first responders in the case of a natural disaster, are also expected to continue to be working without pay, during hurricane season, no less.

In addition, law enforcement and emergency personnel in a government shutdown affect all Americans, one way or another. It affects travel. It affects access to public lands.

TSA workers and air traffic controllers have to keep working. These are the people who make sure our airlines operate safely and on time. But they have to work without pay.

The hiring and training of any new air traffic controllers, which we know is a real problem and an important issue, all of that will stop during the time the Federal Government is shut down—no new hiring of new personnel to help make our air traffic safe.

All of this is because Senate Democrats can't work in a bipartisan manner to keep the government open, even for a few weeks.

The government shutdown also impacts our national parks and Federal lands. Texas boasts 3.2 million acres of federally operated public lands, including Big Bend National Park, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, and Padre Island National Seashore. National parks face a partial shutdown, meaning that some areas, such as open-air sites, will remain open to the public. But buildings that require staffing, like museums, will have to close.

My constituents—roughly 32 million Americans—like all Americans, have to pay the price because of this completely unnecessary government shutdown and the outrageous demands Democrats are making to reopen. All of this lies squarely at their feet.

I was reflecting over the weekend, after the last time we voted to reopen the government and the Democrats voted no, how this must reflect on the United States in the eyes of the world. I think most countries and most people around the world look at the United States as sort of that city on the hill, the place where they would like to live or at least visit because we have the largest, most successfully functioning democracy in the world, with high standards of living, the opportunity for people to work hard, provide for their family, start a business, and achieve their dreams. It is profoundly embarrassing—I think it should be embarrassing—to all Members of Congress that we simply cannot get our act together enough to fund the government for the next few weeks while these negotiations over long-term appropriations bills are occurring.

This kind of dysfunction is completely unworthy of what has been known—what used to be known—as the world's greatest deliberative body.

The unfortunate reality is it doesn't have to be this way. Many of our Democratic friends, from time to time, talked about various things being a threat to democracy. Well, being unable to pass a bill to fund the government to keep the lights on and keep government employees paid, that strikes me as a threat to our democracy.

Senate Democrats long preached the virtues of bipartisanship, especially when it comes to avoiding government shutdowns. And in the past, they have wagged their finger. We have seen it all on social media and on cable TV. They

have said shutdowns are “idiocy.” That is what the Democratic leader said on TV, years ago, when the shoe was on the other foot. He said it is “idiocy.” I agree with him. It was idiocy then, and it is idiocy now.

The American people may not understand the ins and outs of what goes on here, but what they can smell from a mile away is hypocrisy. And that is all this is, sheer hypocrisy.

All our colleagues need to do, when we vote here shortly, is to vote for a clean continuing resolution. All of this can be reversed, and we can get back to working together to try to solve some of the issues that I know they care about as well.

We all care about access to healthcare. That is one of the items that we have to address, certainly, before the end of the year, with the expiration of certain subsidies for the Affordable Care Act. We are happy to have that conversation, and we will have that conversation, but not while the government is shut down.

The good news is—well, let me back up and say the bad news is the government is shut down. The good news is that could end today, this afternoon.

Democrats have an opportunity to vote with Republicans to pass a clean continuing resolution, as they have done many times in the past.

So I hope we can all join arms and say: Let's put an end to this nonsense and pass this legislation on what will now be the fifth opportunity.

The American people are counting on us, and we shouldn't let them down.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. KIM. Madam President, I asked people back home in New Jersey how they have felt about this moment in our country. What I have heard falls into this category: They have said that they feel like things are spinning out of control, that every day feels like a new crisis, every day the anxiety grows deeper, and every day it seems like we move further from a solution.

And in order to find a solution to this moment, we need to understand the problem. The problem that we face and that I want to talk about with you today is that we have a government that has been hijacked at the highest levels by people who act like mob bosses.

Now, again, I am from Jersey. We know a thing or two about mob bosses.

But I want to be clear. This isn't pulling off a Lufthansa heist or having members of your crew getting lost in the Pine Barrens. This is about a Trump administration that is using the same tactics we have seen time and time again in movies and in real life: extortion, corruption, intimidation, and violence—all of these things that have become hallmarks of the Trump Presidency.

I bring them up today, 6 days into a government shutdown, because this is

what the Trump administration is focused on. The Trump administration is not focused on lowering your costs. If they were, they would be here at the Capitol today, working to find a way to lower healthcare costs, as we are about to see them spike for millions of Americans, potentially kicking large numbers off their coverage who can't afford it.

The Trump administration is not focused on creating jobs or creating economic opportunities. If they were, they would be here in both the Senate and the House today, working to make sure that we are investing in the kinds of things only government can provide, things that make us more competitive, more innovative, more prosperous.

And the Trump administration is certainly not focused on keeping you and your family safer. If they were, they would be here at the Capitol today, in both Chambers, working to get our troops paid or to address the real challenges at home and abroad that threaten our security.

Instead, this administration and leaders here in this Capitol have shut down this government so they can focus on the things that they want: to use government to further corruption so that they can funnel money to their billionaire donors, to use government as a tool to extort the American people to bend to their will, to weaponize government to intimidate Americans through violence who dare oppose their actions by even just speaking up.

Corruption, extortion, and intimidation through violence—this is how the Trump administration wants to use your government against you.

Now, like every great mob movie, it is not just about the boss who plays a critical role. For every Don Corleone, there is a Tom Hagen and a Luca Brasi. Donald Trump plays the role of the mob boss, but it is his henchmen who are really running the show.

Russell Vought and Stephen Miller are not public servants. Public servants work to serve the public. They work toward the public good. Russ Vought and Stephen Miller are straight out of Scorsese. These two men are running an operation on corruption, extortion, and intimidation that would make Al Capone jealous.

Let's start with Russ Vought. Russ Vought's entire existence, his reason for being, is to cut every program the American people could possibly rely on so that the billionaires who fund his work can get another tax cut. Money goes to him; money goes back to them; none of it goes to you—pure corruption.

But it is not enough for Russ Vought to just funnel billions to his backers. He has to take from you just to remind you of his power, just to bring you to heel. That is why, last week, he announced that he was freezing \$18 billion for critical infrastructure projects in New York and New Jersey. One of them is the Hudson Tunnel Project, which is critical to our region's economy. In

fact, when I asked Secretary Duffy about this at his confirmation hearing, he said it was a project of national importance, critical for our Nation, not just our region. It is essential to our pursuit to bring infrastructure into the 21st century, and it supports tens of thousands of jobs. But Russell Vought decided to freeze that money out of nothing but political retribution. He decided to freeze this money because he thinks he can punish the people of New Jersey for demanding the government actually work for them, for demanding that we actually work to lower costs.

It doesn't just stop at New Jersey. He froze billions of dollars for transit projects in Chicago and more than \$8 billion in Department of Energy projects in States across the country, just because those States voted for Democrats in the last election. He didn't try to stop those exact types of projects in States that voted for Donald Trump in the last election.

Russell Vought acts like a mob boss because he thinks he can use his levers of government to funnel money to his friends and take away your services when you have gotten out of line.

Last week, I went to New Jersey for a day and heard from my constituents about how they are seeing this shutdown, and one woman said something that really stuck out to me. I asked her: If you had a chance to be able to say one thing to Donald Trump and these Republican negotiators, what would it be?

This was an independent voter. She said: I would want to tell them that it is our money; it is the American people's money, not Trump's personal bank account.

She is absolutely right. This isn't Russell Vought's money to take away whenever he pleases. We have seen him do that through something called rescissions, something that completely ignores the framework our Founding Fathers put in place nearly 250 years ago that Congress—on behalf of you, the people—decides how your money is spent and when that decision is made on behalf of you—your will—your money can't be overturned and taken away simply because a single bureaucratic mob boss decides to exercise his power.

It is not just taking money away. We need to remember that this isn't Russ Vought's money to use as a tool to extort his imagined enemies into following his orders. We need to remember that this is your money. It is your government, and it should work for you.

But right now the Trump administration isn't working for you. It is working to grow and consolidate its own power.

That brings us to our second mob boss, Stephen Miller. Stephen Miller thinks he is the enforcer. He thinks it is his job to defeat Donald Trump's enemies. And again, like Russell Vought, he doesn't seem to see himself as a public servant. He is not even here to

make your family safer or to protect your country. Let's look at how Stephen Miller operates as a mob boss.

Stephen Miller and this administration have taken the issue of our broken immigration system, and instead of working to actually fix it, they have used it as an excuse to rapidly militarize parts of our government and deploy them against our own people, in our own cities, in our own towns.

It starts with going after criminals, people who should actually be sought after and detained, but that is not where it stops. We have seen thousands of American servicemembers sent into American cities. We have as many Americans in uniform here in Washington, DC, as we do in Iraq. We have seen American weapons of war, including Blackhawk helicopters, used against Americans in places like Chicago, and we have seen Miller and other members of this administration effectively call anyone who simply disagrees with them terrorists, including the Democratic Party, while calling for the use of "state power" to "dis-mantle" them.

Now, I want to reflect on that phrase for a moment, "state power." Stephen Miller isn't talking about using the power of our government to make your lives better or work for you. He is not talking about using it to make your neighborhoods safer. He is talking about using it against you if you get out of line. He is talking about using it against anyone who disagrees with this administration, for anyone who stands in their way.

We know that because Donald Trump has basically told us. He told a room of all of his Nation's top military officials—seemingly convened only to show he had the power to do so—that they had to prepare for a "war from within." He told the leaders of the most powerful military in the history of the world to prepare to battle the "enemy from within." That means Americans at home. And, again, we know that because Donald Trump has said it. In the same convening, he said he wants to use American cities as "training grounds" for the military. American cities—places where we live, where we go to work, where we bring our kids to school—that is where Donald Trump wants to exercise power over you.

We have the finest military in the world. The purpose of that military is to defend our Constitution, to defend the American people, to deter our enemies and be prepared to fight them if necessary. The American people are not that enemy, and deploying our military in America's streets weakens our readiness to defend against real threats.

Donald Trump and Stephen Miller and this administration will keep finding new excuses to seize power and threaten to use it against you. In the words of a Federal judge, one that Trump appointed, ours "is a nation of constitutional law, not martial law,"

and the actions of the Trump administration "risk blurring the line between civil and military federal power—to the detriment of this nation."

We are seeing this administration launch military strikes against individuals from Venezuela with no legal authorization or justification. We are seeing this administration—Mr. Miller, specifically—call legal decisions that he doesn't like "an organized terrorist attack."

We are seeing this administration use intimidation and violence as tools not to make us safer, as if that was ever acceptable, but to make us submit. At the end of the day, that is this administration's aim: submission. Like every mob boss, they want you to kiss the ring. They want your loyalty—but not just that; they want your fealty.

And the thing they don't understand is that Americans don't bend the knee; we don't kiss the ring; we don't pledge loyalty to a boss.

This is the people's government. It is not a tool for corruption. It is not a tool for extortion. It is not a tool for intimidation and violence. It is a tool for growing opportunity and prosperity. It is a tool for providing security and freedom. And it is a tool for everyone, not just the bosses.

So, yes, we need to work to reopen our government, and in doing so, we need to make sure that people don't drown under a wave of rising healthcare costs. But we can't lose sight that this isn't the only fight we have got in front of us. President Trump has handed power to Russ Vought and Stephen Miller, and they have used that power to take away your opportunities, your security, and your freedoms.

When we reopen the government, we need to fight to make sure it is working for you, the American people, who deserve that better than to live under the thumb of mob bosses. We are going to fight every day to make sure that you can.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

TARIFFS

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, for all ag producers, the word "tariff" makes us nervous, but earlier this year, I took a step back to look at the bigger economic picture, and I became one of the first Members of Congress to support the administration's effort to level the playing field on trade.

I have said many times that the administration deserves time to secure strong trade deals that benefit Americans; however, the reality is this: Farmers are targeted by other countries, like China. I have seen it firsthand back home in Nebraska.

Producers of corn, soybeans, and other top commodities are under crushing pressure. Rising input costs and uncertainty have driven farm finances to levels reminiscent of the 1980s crisis, which bankrupted thousands and hollowed out our rural communities.

Since 2020, seed costs have jumped 18 percent, fuel and oil are up 32 percent, fertilizer has spiked 37 percent, and interest expenses have surged an alarming 73 percent.

Our soybean producers are projected to lose about \$100 an acre this year. On top of that, storage costs for soybeans and corn have risen steeply. For everybody, this is crippling, and it is happening during one of the largest harvests in memory.

Time is running out, and we need to turn this around. We need a strong and positive set of actions. Ensuring our farmers can weather tough economic times must be a national priority.

It is clear that farm aid is needed at this time. Congress has taken some steps toward this goal. We passed \$10 billion in farm aid last December, and we included a major boost for producers in July's reconciliation law. However, that money is not going to reach any farmers until next fall, and producers need to have relief right now.

But here is the challenge: We also need lasting, long-term solutions that help provide stability and real opportunity for ag producers. That is why one of the fastest ways we can deliver results is by unlocking year-round access to E15—a clean, American-made biofuel. Permanent nationwide access would increase corn demand by 2.5 billion bushels a year. It would lower gas prices for families, and it would drive new revenue into rural communities.

President Trump's day one order to promote E15 through his national energy emergency declaration—that was a strong start, but temporary fixes don't cut it. That is why I reintroduced my Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act earlier this year.

When I first introduced this bill nearly a decade ago, it felt like an uphill climb. Well, today, momentum is finally on our side. We have strong bipartisan support. We have new industry partners, including members of the oil and refining sector, who are at the table.

This is a key piece of Republicans' plan to lower energy costs, to strengthen American production, and to give consumers more choices at the pump.

Trade—well, that is the other half of the equation. Former President Biden's lack of a clear trade agenda left America with a \$49 billion trade deficit, undercutting farmers in Nebraska and all across this country.

President Trump, you can help reverse that deficit by holding China accountable and ensuring American-grown soybeans have access to global markets—a lifeline for farmers facing losses this harvest season.

President Trump has already made progress on this trade front. Take beef. Australia has sold nearly \$29 billion worth of beef to U.S. consumers, while American ranchers have been locked out of their market. Do you know how much beef—American beef—Australia bought? Zero.

Now we need the same kind of breakthrough by opening up the market for soybeans and corn and every other American crop.

At the end of the day, farmers and ranchers want programs that work, and we want markets to sell our products. Simply put: We just want a fair shot.

By securing strong trade deals and building new markets through year-round E15, we can revitalize the farm economy, we can bolster U.S. energy security, and we can ensure that America's producers can keep feeding and fueling this Nation for generations to come.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for the two leaders to enter motions to reconsider without being on the prevailing side with respect to the cloture votes on the motion to proceed to S. 2882 and H.R. 5371; further, that mandatory quorum calls with respect to S. 2882, H.R. 5371, and the en bloc nominations provided for under the provisions of S. Res. 412 be waived.

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

Mrs. FISCHER. I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 167, S. 2882, a bill making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Gary C. Peters, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher Murphy, Tim Kaine, John W. Hickenlooper, Richard Blumenthal, Alex Padilla, Tammy Duckworth, Michael F. Bennet, Jack Reed, Brian Schatz, Mazie Hirono, Margaret Wood Hassan.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to S. 2882, a bill making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 45, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 544 Leg.]

YEAS—45

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

NAYS—50

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

NOT VOTING—5

Curtis	Kennedy	Tillis
Heinrich	Rosen	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 45, the nays are 50.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The motion was rejected.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371, a bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

John Thune, John R. Curtis, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley, Bernie Moreno, Marsha Blackburn, Mike Rounds, Eric Schmitt, Tommy Tuberville, Todd Young, James Lankford, Roger F. Wicker, Rick Scott of Florida, Jim Justice, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to

proceed to H.R. 5371, a bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 545 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Banks	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Moreno
Blackburn	Grassley	Mullin
Boozman	Hagerty	Murkowski
Britt	Hawley	Ricketts
Budd	Hoeven	Risch
Capito	Husted	Rounds
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cortez Masto	King	Sheehy
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	McConnell	Young
Ernst	McCormick	
Fetterman	Moody	

NAYS—42

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

NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Heinrich	Rosen
Curtis	Kennedy	Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, and the nays are 42.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

The Democratic leader.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider the cloture vote for the motion to proceed to S. 2882, Calendar No. 167.

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, and the provisions of S. Res. 412 (119th Congress), do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Executive Calendar Nos. 62, 86, 92, 126, 127, 128, 143, 155, 158, 159, 160, 163, 164, 168, 169, 170, 178, 181, 196, 252, 253, 255, 256, 265, 268, 270, 272, 284, 299, 300, 304, 306, 307, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 323, 341, 342, 345, 347, 348, 349, 355, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 363, 364, 367, 368, 369, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 423, 424, 426, 427, 428, en bloc.

John Thune, John R. Curtis, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley, Bernie Moreno, Marsha Blackburn, Mike Rounds, Eric Schmitt, Tommy Tuberville, Todd Young, James Lankford, Roger F. Wicker, Rick Scott of Florida, Jim Justice, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the en bloc nominations provided for under the provisions of S. Res. 412 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 Utah (Mr. CURTIS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 546 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—5

Curtis	Kennedy	Tillis
Heinrich	Schatz	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 45. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 412, the nominations listed therein are pending en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY, Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of

the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-11. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 22-63 of November 8, 2022.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN
(For Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-11

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Belgium.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 22-63; Date: November 8, 2022; Implementing Agency: Air Force.

(iii) Description: On November 8, 2022, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 22-63 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of the Government of Belgium's request to buy one hundred twenty (120) AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM); and ten (10) AMRAAM C-8 Guidance Sections. Also included were spare AIM-120 control sections and containers; AIM-120C Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM); other spare parts, consumables, accessories, and repair/return support; classified software; books, technical documentation, and other publications; training and training equipment; munitions support and support equipment; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost was \$380 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$358 million of this total.

On March 3, 2025, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 25-0D of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of the addition of the following MDE items: one hundred fifty-nine (159) AIM-120D-3 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM); one (1) AMRAAM D-3 guidance section; and one AIM-120D Integrated Test Vehicle. The following non-MDE items were also included: weapon system support to include software, and KGV-135A COMSEC chips. The total cost of the new MDE articles was \$479 million, and the total cost of the new non-MDE items articles was \$30 million. The total notified cost of MDE increased to \$837 million, and the total notified case value increased to \$889 million.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: up to nine hundred ninety-seven (997) AIM-120D-3 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAMs) and up to one hundred nineteen (119) AMRAAM D-3 guidance sections. The following non-MDE items will be included: AMRAAM support equipment and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost of the new items is \$3.131 billion. The estimated MDE value will increase by \$2.853 billion to a revised \$3.69 billion. The estimated non-MDE value will increase by \$0.278 billion to a revised \$0.33 billion. The estimated total case value will increase by \$3.131 billion to a revised \$4.02 billion.

(iv) Significance: This notification is provided as the additional MDE items were not enumerated in the original notification. The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic

progress in Europe. The proposed sale will improve Belgium's capability to meet current and future threats by maintaining its F-16 and F-35 fleets in combat-ready status and providing a credible deterrent to regional threats.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 3, 2025.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-0M. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 24-60 of September 24, 2024.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN
(for Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-0M

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Iraq.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No: 24-60; Date: September 24, 2024; Military Department: Navy.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) Description: On September 24, 2024, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 24-60 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of the follow-on technical support (FOTS) for Iraq's vessel maintenance and repair (VMR) program, which may include ship repair; maintenance; sustainment; support services; repair; upgrades; overhaul services; associated labor

and support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services of off-shore vessels, patrol boats and defenders of U.S. origin; fuel for quarterly trilateral exercises; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost was \$65 million. There was no Major Defense Equipment (MDE) associated with this sale.

This transmittal notifies the addition of the following non-MDE items: continued follow-on technical support (FOTS) for Iraq's vessel maintenance and repair program, including off-shore vessels, patrol boats, and defenders; all shore ship repair, maintenance, sustainment, support services, repairs, upgrades, overhaul services, associated labor, and support for vessels of U.S. origin in the Iraq Navy fleet; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost of the new non-MDE items is \$135 million. The estimated non-MDE and total case values will increase by \$135 million to a revised \$200 million. There is no MDE associated with this potential sale.

(iv) Significance: The proposed sale will improve Iraq's ability to meet current and future threats by enhancing the strength of its homeland defense.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a strategic partner.

(vi) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 3, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in 1925, business and government leaders from throughout New England came together in Poland Springs, ME, to develop a strategy to reverse the decline in our traditional industries and our communities. Today, we celebrate a century of accomplishments by the New England Council to foster prosperity and opportunity.

When Captain John Smith explored our rugged coast more than 400 years ago, he wrote in his journal that settling this untamed region would take, "the best parts of art, judgment, courage, honesty, constancy, diligence, and industry." I know of no better description of the spirit that guides the New England Council. Congratulations and happy birthday.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the New England Council, which was founded in September 1925 when the six Governors of New England gathered with business leaders in Poland Spring, ME, to better collaborate across our region's shared and intimately intertwined economic interests. Shortly after, the New England Council was founded as a nonpartisan and non-profit entity to facilitate this work. For 100 years now, the council has been an indispensable partner advocating for the New England region.

The New England States—our economies, culture, and interests—have been

interconnected since before the founding of our Nation. While we may have much in common, our States are often considered the most "independent-minded" states. At one time, this tendency may have predisposed our States to chart our own paths forward and work fervently to protect our individual interests. Indeed, this history of self-governance and independence led directly to the events that founded the United States and laid the foundation for the principles of the Nation that we cherish. Now, and for the past 100 years, the New England Council has helped carry our region's independent spirit forward by bringing our States' interests together and helping ensure that New England is heard on the ever-changing national stage.

To be sure, the New England Council's ability to be a convener of political leaders—on both sides of the aisle—business leaders, nonprofits, and academic and health institutions sets the council apart from many of its peers. Its ability to do so comes from the council's reputation as a non-partisan, fact-driven organization that represents many diverse viewpoints embedded across our staunchly independent States. That is to say: when the Council speaks as one, we know the issue reflects consensus and is in service to its mission to promote New England's economic growth and safeguard a high quality of life for all New Englanders.

The council's mission becomes even greater in times of turbulence. Whether during shared national struggles, like World War II or the COVID-19 pandemic, or in times of sharp political debate, our region's shared economic interests become more pronounced. In these times, the council does more than bring people together and advocate for solutions; it amplifies the voice of a region. This ability again relies on its ironclad nonpartisan reputation. Because it is so well regarded, the council can ensure that all New Englanders, even those who may not be politically well connected, can be heard by their representatives and the Federal Government. That means that when the national environment is loud, when there are many different stakeholders making their perspectives clear, the New England Council can definitively speak in one voice to ensure that our region's priorities break through the noise.

On behalf of Rhode Island, I want to congratulate the New England Council, president and CEO Jim Brett, the entire board of directors, and all its members on a well-earned centennial. From working to address our region's housing shortage and infrastructure challenges to advocating for reliable and affordable energy, thank you for a century of working to advance Rhode Island's and New England's economic interests.

TRIBUTE TO ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, as the junior Senator from the great State of South Carolina, it is my honor to recognize His All Holiness Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople. Throughout his life, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has embodied the values of faith, justice, and unity, offering an inspiring example of what it means to lead with conviction and humility. His ministry has encouraged many around the world to pursue peace and to live lives grounded in purpose and hope.

Each year, I host the South Carolina Prayer Breakfast, a nonpartisan, multi-faith gathering where South Carolinians come together to reflect on our shared values and the vital role faith plays in public life. This tradition reminds us that, even in challenging times, faith has the power to unite communities, to heal division, and to call us toward reconciliation and renewal. That same spirit is at the heart of Patriarch Bartholomew's life and ministry. His steadfast call for dialogue, compassion, and reconciliation speaks directly to the challenges we face today as we work to remain one Nation under God.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for his tireless efforts and leadership to build bridges of understanding across nations and faiths. May his example continue to inspire us to live with courage, to serve with compassion, and to remain committed to the good of our country and the world.

TRIBUTE TO RONNA ERIN BECKMANN

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, it is with great pride and gratitude that I rise to celebrate the public service career of Ms. Ronna Erin Beckmann, who is departing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, after 21 years of service in congressional and inter-governmental relations, first at EPA Headquarters in Washington, DC, and then at the EPA Region 5 headquarters in Chicago, IL.

Ronna's dedication to EPA's mission, her extensive experience, and deep expertise was always evident in her ability to carry out meaningful, and often complex, engagement with diverse communities and congressional offices across the six States, including my State of Illinois, as well as Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio, Michigan, and 37 Tribes.

Ronna shepherded our offices through endless challenges, such as devastating floods in East St. Louis and Cahokia Heights, IL, and the train derailment in East Palestine, OH, to comprehensive lead abatement and major regulatory milestones that helped protect the health of our residents.

Ronna handled each situation with incredible care, tailored to the specific needs of the unique issue and area. Ronna has always gone far above what was required of her, including attending endless community events and meeting with our offices weekly to ensure the people of Illinois felt seen, informed, and protected.

Simply put, Ronna's work changed people's lives, and because of her dedication and service, the people of Illinois and the entire Region 5 are closer to achieving our ultimate goal of ensuring environmental justice for all.

My staff and I cannot thank her enough for helping us fulfill our constitutional responsibility to oversee, and work with, EPA to better protect our constituents' public health against dangerous pollutants, toxic exposure, and other environmental harms.

Ronna's dedication, tact, and emotional investment in the Region 5 communities she served will be greatly missed. As an Illinois resident herself, I hope Ronna knows that her character and leadership had untold positive impacts on the people of Illinois and the Nation. I thank her for her over 21 years of dedicated service to EPA and wish her well on her next endeavor.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING STAATS AWARDS

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa Small Business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to honor Staats Awards of Henry County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 1898 by Mr. E.G. Staats in La Crosse, WI, Staats Awards moved to Mount Pleasant, IA, in 1910 and has since grown from its modest roots into one of the oldest and most respected leaders in creating awards and recognitions. In 1965, it was purchased by James Patten and Bernie Webster. Today, it is proudly owned and operated by Mr. Patten's three daughters; Janine, Tina, and Jamie, who hold a majority stake in the company. The Webster family continues to retain a minority ownership share. What began as a business making braid and trim for band and fraternal uniforms evolved into a full-service recognition company. Staats now offers patterned rosettes, banners, plaques, acrylics, promotional products, imprinted apparel, advertising specialties, and more. Staats Awards' trophies and ribbons are a mainstay at the Iowa State Fair and nationwide at festivals, livestock and horse shows, agribusinesses, schools, corporations, and community events. Guided by the motto "Small Town Values, World Class Quality," Staats and its staff of more than 20 employees combine hard-working Midwestern values with products that rec-

ognize achievement, inspire employees, and promote organizational missions.

In 1939, Staats relocated from its storefront on the Mount Pleasant Square to the former Willowbank School. By 2000, the company had outgrown that space and moved to its current facility in the Crossroads Industrial Park. This modern location allows Staats to meet customer needs with the automated machinery and computer technology necessary to remain competitive in the national market. Even so, Staats continues to handcraft many of their products, which ensures the highest quality at the most affordable price possible. Staats credits its central location and the Midwestern values of its staff for fostering a strong, hard-working, family atmosphere that shines through in their products and services provided to thousands of customers nationwide.

Staats is also deeply involved in their community. They are active members of the Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce, an associate member of the Association of Iowa Fairs, and an associate member of the International Association of Fairs and Expos. Staats and its employees regularly give back through initiatives like Random Act of Kindness Day and food donations to the Fellowship Cup, a local nonprofit in Henry County. Beyond these contributions, Staats takes pride in supporting community traditions, local events, and charitable causes that strengthen their community. Their leadership believes that small businesses succeed not only through their products, but also by investing in the people that support them.

Today, it is my honor to recognize the Patten sisters, the entire Staats team, and the generations who came before them for their outstanding work and dedication to their community. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead. •

RECOGNIZING 100 YEARS OF NEWBERRY HEALTH

• Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, as the junior Senator from the great State of South Carolina, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate Newberry Health on reaching a remarkable milestone: 100 years of dedicated service to the people of Newberry County and the broader South Carolina community.

Since its founding in 1925, Newberry Health has stood as a pillar of excellence. It has evolved from a modest local healthcare provider into a comprehensive medical institution that has touched countless lives throughout the State. Now, for an entire century, this organization has embodied the values of compassion, medical excellence, and unwavering commitment to community health. For decades, the leadership, physicians, nurses, staff, and volunteers have shown a deep dedication

to providing high-quality and personalized healthcare. Newberry Health has been instrumental in advancing public health initiatives, supporting rural health, and fostering community partnerships for greater health outcomes.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Newberry Health on this extraordinary milestone. Their century of service represents the best of community healthcare. It is my hope that their next 100 years continue to be equally rooted in service to the people of South Carolina.●

REMEMBERING ADRIENNE L. OTTAVIANI

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of Adrienne L. Ottaviani, who passed away on September 23, 2025, at the age of 78. Adrienne was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and a leader whose kindness and dedication enriched western Maryland for more than four decades.

Born in Denbo, PA, and raised in Baltimore, Adrienne married her husband Philip in 1968. Together they shared 57 years of marriage and built a loving family. In 1980, the Ottavianis moved to Cumberland, MD, where Adrienne quickly became a pillar of the community. She was first active in the PTA and served on the Allegany County Board of Education. In 1990, she was elected to the Allegany County Board of Commissioners, becoming one of only four women ever to hold that office. Adrienne demonstrated leadership, dedication, and a deep commitment to public service throughout her tenure.

Adrienne's greatest legacy, however, may be the warmth and fellowship she shared through Ristorante Ottaviani, which she and her husband opened in downtown Cumberland in 2007. Known affectionately as "Mama O," she welcomed every guest like family, serving food, friendship, and her signature hugs. The restaurant became a cherished community gathering place, reflecting her love of people and her belief that everyone deserved to feel special.

Adrienne will be remembered for her service, her compassion, and her extraordinary generosity of spirit. She leaves behind her husband, three children, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren, who will carry forward her legacy of love and community.

Adrienne Ottaviani was a trailblazer, a friend, and a source of light to all who knew her. Her memory will remain a blessing to her family, her community, and to the State of Maryland.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY) announced that on today, October 6, 2025, he had signed the fol-

lowing enrolled bill, previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 2483. An act to reauthorize certain programs that provide for opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1950. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Radiological Health Regulations; Technical Amendments" (Docket No. FDA-2018-N-3303) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1951. A communication from the Board Members of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's fiscal year 2025 Annual Report; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1952. A communication from the Administrative Appeals Counsel to the Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Priorities and Definitions-Secretary's Supplemental Priorities and Definitions on Evidence-Based Literacy, Education Choice, and Returning Education to the States" ((34 CFR Part 75) (Docket ID ED-2025-OS-0020)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1953. A communication from the Solicitor, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to nominations, vacancies, designations of service in acting roles, discontinuations of service in acting roles and actions on nominations for positions covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1954. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to nominations, vacancies, designations of service in acting roles, discontinuations of service in acting roles and actions on nominations for positions covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1955. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Devices; Laboratory Developed Tests; Implementation of Vacatur" (RIN0910-AJ05) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1956. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedule

of Fees for Consular Services, Department of State and Overseas Embassies and Consulates-Visa Services Fee Changes" (RIN1400-AG09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1957. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prior Notice: Adding Requirement to Submit Mail Tracking Number for Articles of Food Arriving by International Mail and Timeframe for Post-refusal and Post-hold Submissions" (RIN0910-AI75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1958. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Exposing Foreign Labor Abuses to Address Unfair Competition for American Workers and Companies"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1959. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report of a draft bill entitled "The Judicial Improvements and Technical Corrections Act of 2025"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1960. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Office of the Secretary, Health and Human Services, transmitting, a report entitled "Annual Report To the Congress of the United States On Sanitation Deficiency Levels for Indian Homes and Communities for Fiscal Year 2024"; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-1961. A communication from the Senior Regulations Writer, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Expiration Dates for 13 Body System Listings" (RIN0960-AI95) received during the adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1962. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Border Security Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tonnage Tax Modernization" (RIN1685-AA34) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1963. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Contract Year 2026 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage Program, Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program, Medicare Cost Plan Program, and Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)-Finalization of Format Provider Directories for Medicare Plan Finder" (RIN0938-AV40) received during the adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1964. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Catch-Up Contributions" (RIN1545-BR11) received during the adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

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. 254. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to protect the cultural practices and livelihoods of producers of Alaska Native handicrafts and marine mammal ivory products, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-73).

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. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2975. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance the safety of pipeline transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MORENO:

S. 2976. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an excise tax on payments by United States taxpayers to foreign persons for services provided to United States consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. Res. 432. A resolution to designate September 9, 2025, as "National World War II Italian Campaign Remembrance Day", and to recognize the sacrifices made by American and Allied soldiers who liberated Italy from German occupation during World War II; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. Res. 433. A resolution; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. Res. 434. A resolution; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. Res. 435. A resolution honoring the life of Brian Douglas Wilson as a rock-n-roll and pop icon, a musical genius, and one of the greatest composers, songwriters, and innovators in the history of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 436. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2025 as "National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHMITT (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 437. A resolution honoring the pilots, maintainers, analysts, sailors, support aircraft, and families, among various other essential groups involved in the success of Operation Midnight Hammer; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 6

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 6, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 88

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 88, a bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills.

S. 262

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 262, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Roderick "Roddie" Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II.

S. 410

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 410, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 593

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 593, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to modify Reid Vapor Pressure requirements and to provide for the return of certain retired credits, and for other purposes.

S. 867

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 867, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that the Federal Communications Commission may not take action against a broadcast licensee or any other person on the basis of viewpoint, and for other purposes.

S. 912

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 912, a bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to publish, on an annual basis, an assessment of United States dependency on critical agricultural products or inputs from the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

S. 1175

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1175, a bill to amend section 6903 of title 31, United States Code, to provide for additional population tiers, and for other purposes.

S. 1649

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1649, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain marketplace providers as importers for purposes of the excise tax on sporting goods.

S. 2126

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2126, a bill to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

S. 2300

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2300, a bill to amend section 2112 of title 44, United States Code, to appropriately limit donations to Presidential Libraries and Centers.

S. 2452

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2452, a bill to amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes.

S. 2570

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2570, a bill to amend the Energy Conservation and Production Act to reauthorize the weatherization assistance program.

S. 2923

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2923, a bill to provide for the automatic acquisition of United States citizenship for certain internationally adopted individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 2955

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2955, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish Federal penalties for the knowing and intentional administration of any abortion-inducing drug to a woman without her informed consent, if the abortion-inducing drug has been shipped or transported in interstate commerce, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 82

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 82, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to "Policy on Adhering to

the Text of the Administrative Procedure Act”.

S. CON. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 4, a concurrent resolution expressing support for the Geneva Consensus Declaration on Promoting Women's Health and Strengthening the Family and urging that the United States rejoin this historic declaration.

S. RES. 426

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 426, a resolution designating the week of October 5, 2025, through October 11, 2025, as “Religious Education Week” to celebrate religious education in the United States.

S. RES. 430

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 430, a resolution designating October 4, 2025, as “National Energy Appreciation Day” to celebrate the people who work to power the United States and the economy of the United States and to build awareness of the important role that the energy producers of the United States play in reducing poverty, strengthening national security, and improving the quality of life for people around the world.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 432—TO DESIGNATE SEPTEMBER 9, 2025, AS “NATIONAL WORLD WAR II ITALIAN CAMPAIGN REMEMBRANCE DAY”, AND TO RECOGNIZE THE SACRIFICES MADE BY AMERICAN AND ALLIED SOLDIERS WHO LIBERATED ITALY FROM GERMAN OCCUPATION DURING WORLD WAR II

Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. SHEEHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 432

Whereas the Allied invasion of Sicily began on July 9, 1943, with the first-ever large scale assault in the history of the United States Army;

Whereas, between July 9 and 10, 1943, the Allies executed the single largest amphibious landing of troops to that point in World War II, bringing more than 180,000 soldiers ashore on Sicily as part of Operation Husky;

Whereas the Cassibile Armistice was signed on September 3, 1943, and publicly announced on September 8, 1943, marking the surrender of Italy to the Allies and the withdrawal of Italy from the Axis powers;

Whereas September 9, 1943, marks the beginning of the liberation of mainland Italy from German occupation, with American forces landing at Salerno and along the Amalfi Coast for the launch of Operation Avalanche;

Whereas the campaign to reach Rome included many hard-fought engagements, in-

cluding the months-long struggle at Monte Cassino and the Battle of Anzio;

Whereas, on June 4, 1944, the Fifth Army of the United States entered Rome, becoming the first Allied force to liberate a European capital from German occupation;

Whereas the United States Office of Strategic Services worked with Italian partisan networks to support the April 1945 uprising and to lay the groundwork for post-war democratic reconstruction in Italy;

Whereas, on April 29, 1945, the surrender at Caserta resulted in the capitulation of nearly 1,000,000 Axis troops in the Italian theater, the largest surrender of German forces at that point in the war;

Whereas, on April 30, 1945, the death of Adolf Hitler signaled the collapse of Nazi leadership, occurring just 1 day after the German surrender in Italy;

Whereas, on May 2, 1945, the unconditional surrender of German forces in Italy took effect, liberating the Italian peninsula;

Whereas, on May 7, 1945, the overall German surrender in Europe took place;

Whereas the Italian campaign was a joint-forces effort by the United States Army, the United States Army Air Forces, and the United States Navy;

Whereas the Italian campaign was one of the longest continual combat campaigns undertaken by the Allies during World War II, lasting 602 days;

Whereas the Italian campaign was supported by one of the longest sustainment operations conducted by American and Allied maintenance forces, exemplified by the Ordnance Corps of the United States Army, which were comprised of approximately 24,000 officers, 325,000 enlisted individuals, and 262,000 civilians stationed in the United States and overseas;

Whereas, for the majority of the Italian campaign, despite being on the offensive, the Allies were outnumbered by the Germans;

Whereas the Italian campaign involved the participation of several Allied states, with troops from the present-day countries of Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa, and the United Kingdom fighting alongside troops from the United States;

Whereas Allied troops persevered through harsh terrain, severe weather, and limited resources to achieve important and hard-fought victories throughout the Italian campaign;

Whereas victory in the Italian campaign was achieved at great human cost, with approximately 350,000 Allied casualties, including 150,000 American casualties, of which more than 60,000 individuals were killed or missing and 92,000 individuals were wounded, and over 426,000 Axis casualties;

Whereas more than 15,000 American servicemembers are commemorated in American cemeteries in Italy, including 7,845 laid to rest and 3,095 commemorated in the wall of remembrance at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery in Nettuno, and 4,392 laid to rest and 1,409 commemorated in the wall of remembrance at the Florence American Cemetery in Tavarnuzze;

Whereas the advanced age of the few remaining veterans of the Italian Campaign, the fact that less than 1 percent of American veterans of the Second World War are still living, and the gradual fading of living memory make it increasingly urgent to preserve and share the stories and sacrifices of those veterans with future generations; and

Whereas the world owes a debt of gratitude to the members of the “Greatest Generation” who assumed the task of freeing and restoring peace and democracy to Italy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 9, 2025, as “National World War II Italian Campaign Remembrance Day”;

(2) honors the bravery, service, and sacrifice of American and Allied forces during the campaign to liberate Italy;

(3) recognizes the importance of preserving key battlefields, cemeteries, and historical sites across Italy, along with the memory those sites embody within Italy, as sacred places of remembrance;

(4) supports all commemorative and educational efforts that work toward preserving this hard-fought memory for future generations;

(5) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, education, and reflection; and

(6) requests that the people of the United States commemorate the Italian Campaign and express gratitude to Americans who gave their lives and to all others who served to defend freedom in the Italian campaign.

SENATE RESOLUTION 433—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF STUDENT PARENTS IN SEEKING AND COMPLETING A POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2025 AS “NATIONAL STUDENT PARENT MONTH”

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

S. RES. 433

Whereas student parents are individuals who have children and who attend postsecondary educational institutions;

Whereas student parents make up roughly 1/3 of the postsecondary student population, totaling nearly 3,140,000 individuals;

Whereas 24 percent of female undergraduates are parents and 30 percent are food insecure;

Whereas 48 percent of student parents are first-generation college students;

Whereas 66 percent of parents who are enrolled at an institution of higher education work 40 hours a week or more, 26 percent work 20 to 39 hours per week, and 9 percent work less than 20 hours, which requires those individuals to balance school, work, and caring for their dependents;

Whereas 55 percent of postsecondary student parents are students of color, and of that population—

- (1) 21 percent are Black;
- (2) 20 percent are Latino or Latina;
- (3) 7 percent are multiracial;
- (4) 3 percent are Asian; and
- (5) 3 percent are Native American, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander;

Whereas 45 percent of student parents are military-connected students;

Whereas approximately 844 surviving military spouses are using education benefits for surviving dependents from the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas 90 percent of military spouses have some college education or credential and, on average, make 38 percent less than their civilian counterparts;

Whereas 20 percent of student veterans are single parents while attending school;

Whereas 51 percent of student parents attend community colleges, 16 percent attend public baccalaureate institutions, and 13 percent attend private nonprofit institutions of higher education;

Whereas the cohort of single mothers currently enrolled in higher education will save

approximately \$19,900,000,000 in public assistance spending;

Whereas 52 percent of student parents report food insecurity, 58 percent report housing insecurity, and 42 percent of student parents experience both food and housing insecurity, compared to 26 percent of nonparenting students;

Whereas two-thirds of student parents live at or near the poverty line, and 52 percent of student parents are Pell Grant recipients, with 85 percent of Black student parents reporting some form of basic needs insecurity;

Whereas, on average, student parents have higher grade point averages than their nonparenting peers, but student parents are 10 times less likely to complete a bachelor's degree within 5 years than students without children;

Whereas 23 percent of student parents have missed at least 1 class due to a lack of child care;

Whereas student parents are twice as likely to drop out of college and later re-enroll, with 45 percent of such student parents reporting their decision involved childcare or parenting responsibilities;

Whereas a low-income student parent who earns a degree or credential boosts the income of that individual and the earning potential of the children of that individual when those children become adults; and

Whereas student parents are uniquely motivated to excel in their courses of study while often facing challenges, including lack of affordable child care and balancing work responsibilities while attending postsecondary educational institutions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the contributions and achievements of student parents in seeking and completing a postsecondary education; and

(2) designates September 2025 as “National Student Parent Month”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 434—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 5 THROUGH OCTOBER 11, 2025, AS “NATIONAL 4-H WEEK”

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. BENNET, Ms. BLUNT ROCHSTER, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KING, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 434

Whereas 4-H is the largest youth development organization in the United States, supporting nearly 6,000,000 young people across the United States;

Whereas 4-H helps young people become confident, independent, resilient, and compassionate leaders;

Whereas 4-H is delivered by the Cooperative Extension System, a community of more than 110 land-grant colleges and universities across the United States that provides experiences for young people to learn

through hands-on projects in the important areas of health, science, agriculture, and civic engagement;

Whereas the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the Department of Agriculture serves as the Federal partner of 4-H in collaboration with land-grant colleges and universities, the Cooperative Extension System, and National 4-H Council;

Whereas National 4-H Week showcases the incredible ways 4-H provides opportunities for all young people and highlights the remarkable members of 4-H in all 50 States and across the globe who work each day to make a positive impact on other individuals;

Whereas the 4-H network of nearly 500,000 volunteers and 3,500 professionals provides caring and supportive mentoring to all members of 4-H, helping members to grow into true leaders, entrepreneurs, and visionaries; and

Whereas members of 4-H will celebrate National 4-H Week during the week of October 5 through October 11, 2025: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of October 5 through October 11, 2025, as “National 4-H Week”;

(2) recognizes the important role of 4-H as the youth development program of the Cooperative Extension System and the Department of Agriculture;

(3) encourages all citizens to recognize 4-H for the significant impact the organization and members have made and continue to make by empowering youth with the skills needed to lead for a lifetime; and

(4) celebrates the work of 4-H in developing engaged, healthy, and productive citizens who are “Beyond Ready” for work and life in a world of change.

SENATE RESOLUTION 435—HONORING THE LIFE OF BRIAN DOUGLAS WILSON AS A ROCK-N-ROLL AND POP ICON, A MUSICAL GENIUS, AND ONE OF THE GREATEST COMPOSERS, SONGWRITERS, AND INNOVATORS IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

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

S. RES. 435

Whereas Brian Douglas Wilson was born on June 20, 1942, in Inglewood, California, to Audree and Murry Wilson;

Whereas Mr. Wilson grew up in Hawthorne, California, with his brothers Carl and Dennis Wilson and attended Hawthorne High School;

Whereas Mr. Wilson was a musical prodigy from a young age, recreating tunes he heard on the radio and teaching himself to play the piano at the age of 12;

Whereas Mr. Wilson, with little formal training beyond a handful of high school music classes, began experimenting with production elements and writing songs as a teenager;

Whereas Mr. Wilson, his brothers, their cousin Mike Love, and friend Al Jardine formed the Beach Boys in 1961, pioneering a unique harmonic sound with lyrics embracing California surf culture;

Whereas Mr. Wilson and the Beach Boys released their first album *Surfin' Safari* in 1962, and quickly achieved commercial success and widespread popularity;

Whereas Mr. Wilson, as the group's bassist and primary songwriter, propelled the Beach Boys to 13 top-ten singles between 1962 and

1967 and 3 number 1 hits: “I Get Around”, “Help Me, Rhonda”, and “Good Vibrations”;

Whereas Mr. Wilson composed, arranged, and produced the Beach Boys' revolutionary album *Pet Sounds*, which, widely considered among the greatest albums of all time, features some of the band's most enduring hits, like “Wouldn't It Be Nice”, “God Only Knows”, and “Sloop John B”;

Whereas Mr. Wilson and the Beach Boys were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1988 and earned a lifetime achievement award from the Recording Academy in 2001;

Whereas Mr. Wilson won 2 Grammy Awards as a solo artist and received Kennedy Center honors in 2007;

Whereas Mr. Wilson openly talked about his struggles with mental health and addiction, helping to decrease stigma, and served as an advocate for those who suffer from similar conditions;

Whereas Mr. Wilson completed his long-awaited masterpiece *Smile* in 2004, an ambitious and critically acclaimed 17-song rock opera he began producing decades earlier in 1966; and

Whereas Mr. Wilson passed away on June 11, 2025, and has left an enduring legacy in music, inspiring countless artists and millions of fans with his intricate and emotive musical arrangements, introspective songwriting, and pioneering California surf culture sound: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the life of Brian Douglas Wilson as a rock-n-roll and pop icon, a musical genius, and one of the greatest composers, songwriters, and innovators in the history of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 436—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2025 AS “NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 436

Whereas more than 3,300,000 men are living with prostate cancer in the United States;

Whereas 1 in 8 men in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetimes and 1 in 41 men in the United States will die from prostate cancer;

Whereas prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer and the second-leading cause of cancer-related deaths among men in the United States;

Whereas the American Cancer Society estimates that, in 2025, 313,780 men will be diagnosed with, and more than 35,770 men will die of, prostate cancer;

Whereas 35 percent of newly diagnosed prostate cancer cases occur in men under the age of 65;

Whereas the odds of developing prostate cancer rise rapidly after age 50;

Whereas having a father or brother with prostate cancer more than doubles the risk of a man developing prostate cancer, with a higher risk for men who have a brother with the disease and the highest risk for men with several affected relatives;

Whereas screening by a digital rectal examination and a prostate-specific antigen blood test may be able to detect the disease at an early stage;

Whereas, when diagnosed with localized- or regional-stage prostate cancer, the survival rate nears 100 percent;

Whereas only 37 percent of men survive more than 5 years if diagnosed with prostate cancer after the cancer has metastasized;

Whereas there are typically no noticeable symptoms of prostate cancer in the early stages, making discussions with a doctor regarding appropriate screening critical;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2025, Congress appropriated \$48,551,000,000 to the National Institutes of Health, including \$7,220,000,000 for the National Cancer Institute;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2025, Congress appropriated \$75,000,000 for the Prostate Cancer Research Program of the Department of Defense;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs has established 21 Precision Oncology Centers of Excellence in order to deliver precision oncology services to veterans suffering from prostate cancer;

Whereas ongoing research promises further improvements in prostate cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment; and

Whereas educating individuals in the United States, including health care providers, about prostate cancer and early detection strategies while emphasizing the importance of consultation with a physician regarding the benefits and risks of screening is essential to saving lives and preserving and protecting families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of “National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month”;

(2) declares that steps should be taken—

(A) to raise awareness about the importance of screening methods for, and treatment of, prostate cancer;

(B) to encourage research—

(i) to improve screening and treatment for prostate cancer;

(ii) to discover the causes of prostate cancer; and

(iii) to develop a cure for prostate cancer; and

(C) to continue to consider ways to improve access to, and the quality of, health care services for detecting and treating prostate cancer; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States, interest groups, and affected persons—

(A) to promote awareness of prostate cancer;

(B) to take an active role in the fight to end the devastating effects of prostate cancer on individuals, families, and the economy; and

(C) to observe National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 437—HONORING THE PILOTS, MAINTAINERS, ANALYSTS, SAILORS, SUPPORT AIRCRAFT, AND FAMILIES, AMONG VARIOUS OTHER ESSENTIAL GROUPS INVOLVED IN THE SUCCESS OF OPERATION MIDNIGHT HAMMER

Mr. SCHMITT (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 437

Whereas, at midnight on June 21, 2025, a group of stealth aircraft headed west from the base as a decoy while 7 B-2 Spirit stealth bombers deployed from Whiteman Airforce Base in Knob Noster, Missouri, and dropped

14, 30,000-pound, GBU 57 A/B Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP) bunker buster bombs on Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant and Natanz Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant in the Islamic Republic of Iran;

Whereas, throughout the 18-hour flight into the target area, the B-2 bombers completed multiple in-flight refueling, which require precision and close flight formation, typically within 100 feet;

Whereas, once over land, the B-2 bombers joined escort and support aircraft in a complex, tightly timed maneuver requiring exact synchronization across multiple platforms in a narrow piece of airspace, all done with minimal communications;

Whereas the strike package employed high-speed suppression weapons on 3 nuclear facilities in Iran, Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant, Natanz Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant, and Isfahan Nuclear Technology Center, to ensure the safe passage of the strike package with fighter assets employing preemptive suppressing fires against any potential Iranian surface-to-air threats;

Whereas the mission devastated the Iranian nuclear program, despite denial by the Islamic Republic of Iran of any significant damage;

Whereas a United States submarine in the area of responsibility of United States Central Command launched more than 2 dozen Tomahawk land attack cruise missiles against key surface infrastructure targets at Isfahan as the Operation Midnight Hammer strike package entered Iranian airspace and were the last to strike to ensure the element of surprise was retained throughout the operation; and

Whereas all operational B-2 bombers are based at Whiteman Air Force Base in Knob Noster, Missouri, where the active-duty 509th Bomb Wing and 131st Bomb Wing Missouri Air National Guard jointly train, fly, and maintain the fleet for the Air Force: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the men and women involved in Operation Midnight Hammer for their bravery, highly technical expertise, and dedication to the mission to keep the United States safe;

(2) recognizes the strategic significance of Operation Midnight Hammer, citing the operation as the largest B-2 operational strike in United States history and the second longest B-2 mission ever flown, the operation is exceeded only by the days following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001; and

(3) recognizes the sacrifices of the families of the men and women involved in Operation Midnight Hammer, which allowed them to faithfully execute their duties to their military post.

IMPACT AID RECOGNITION DAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 406.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 406) designating September 30, 2025, as “Impact Aid Recognition Day” to recognize and celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Impact Aid program.

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.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 406) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 18 (legislative day, September 16), 2025, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

RECOGNIZING THE SERIOUSNESS OF POLYCYSTIC OVARY SYNDROME (PCOS) AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2025 AS PCOS AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 422.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 422) recognizing the seriousness of polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) and expressing support for the designation of September 2025 as “PCOS Awareness Month”.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 422) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 30, 2025, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 432, S. Res. 433, S. Res. 434, S. Res. 435, S. Res. 436, and S. Res. 437.

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

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER
7, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 7; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning

business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the en bloc nominations provided for under the provisions of S. Res. 412, postcloture; further, that all time during recess, adjournment, leader remarks, and morning business count postcloture on the nominations; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:28 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 10 a.m.