



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025

No. 165

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 3 p.m.

Senate

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARKWAYNE MULLIN, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who made the light to shine in darkness, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the presence of Your Holy Spirit. Lord, stay close to our lawmakers as they seek to end this government shutdown. Remind them to trust always in the multitude of Your mercy. Deliver them from the mire of division and despair as You lead them to Your desired destination. Refusing to lean solely on their own wisdom, may our Senators trust You, O God, to choreograph our destinies.

Make haste, O God, to deliver.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 7, 2025.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARKWAYNE MULLIN, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EN BLOC NOMINATIONS—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the nominees en bloc provided for under the provisions of S. Res. 412.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

ISRAEL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to note that today marks 2 years since the October 7, 2023, terrorist attack on Israel. By day's end on that October 7, hundreds of innocent Israelis were dead, and more than 200 hostages had been taken. Some of those hostages are still in captivity.

My prayers today are with the remaining hostages, the survivors of that day, and all those still grieving the loss of their loved ones—and for a just and lasting peace in the region.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, it has been 1 week since Democrats shut down the government, 1 week since Democrats put their far-left base before the American people.

Over the past week, the Senate has taken votes on two different continuing resolutions. One, offered by Republicans, is a clean funding extension—something we do routinely around here. It adds no Republican policies. It has no partisan policy riders. It just extends current funding levels through November 21 so we can make more progress on full-year appropriations.

The Democrats' proposal, on the other hand, shows their lack of seriousness. Their resolution would fund the government until October 31 in exchange for \$1.5 trillion in new, partisan spending. Yes, you heard that right—\$1.5 trillion in new, partisan spending to fund the government through the end of the month—just the end of the month. Four weeks for \$1.5 trillion.

Then there is the fact that their plan makes noncitizens eligible for Federal

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



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healthcare programs, strips away commonsense work requirements for able-bodied adults to be eligible for Medicaid, and repeals the transformative \$50 billion rural health fund that Republicans enacted in July to support and bolster rural hospitals.

Why Democrats think that threatening healthcare in rural America is a winning proposition is beyond me, but apparently they really do think so because we are still in this shutdown 1 week later, and Democrats are digging in their heels on their partisan demands.

Needless to say, Democrats' partisan \$1.5 trillion bill has zero chance of becoming law. There is only one viable path out of the mess the Democrats have created. We need to pass the clean, nonpartisan CR that has already passed the House of Representatives and that President Trump is ready to sign today—right now. It is only a handful of votes away from passing here in the U.S. Senate.

We are not asking Democrats to support any Republican policies; we are just asking them to reopen the government. It is that simple. If just a handful of Senate Democrats would join Republicans and the three Democrat Senators who already support the bill, we could end this shutdown in a matter of hours and get back to doing the work the American people sent us here to do.

Democrats may be earning some praise from the far-left base, but I doubt that hard-working Americans have many kind words.

Right now, Federal workers, including our troops, Border Patrol, and air traffic controllers, are working without pay. The National Flood Insurance Program has lapsed, putting households at risk during hurricane season. Telehealth and hospital at-home programs have expired, taking away services that Americans depend upon, especially in rural areas. Americans seeking services or benefits from the Federal Government are facing delays.

The longer Democrats refuse to support a clean funding extension, the worse things will get. Some Federal workers will soon be missing a paycheck. WIC is almost out of money and may soon be unable to deliver resources to American families. Federally funded programs will continue to run through their reserve funds and be forced to curtail or cancel their activities.

Before I close, I also want to point out that Senate Democrats, at the same time, are blocking progress on bipartisan, full-year legislation with their shutdown strategy.

We have a number of bipartisan bills that are waiting for consideration on the Senate floor right now—bipartisan bills that contain priorities from Members of both sides of the aisle and from every corner of the country, bills that we would be considering this week if we weren't stuck in this shutdown.

The Democrats' shutdown is helping no one, and I hope, when we vote next

to reopen the government, my Democrat colleagues will join us to support our clean, nonpartisan continuing resolution, something that they have done 13 times as recently as when they were in the majority here in the Senate and President Biden was in the White House.

We have had a few Democrats join us already. We just need a handful more, and we can reopen the government and get back to working for the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

ISRAEL

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, well, unfortunately, it is a sad day. Today marks 2 years since Hamas's horrific, brutal, terrorist attack on Israel—a day of inextinguishable grief, the single deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust. No matter how much time passes, I will always remember October 7 as if it were yesterday.

On October 7, I was in Beijing, leading a bipartisan delegation in China, meeting with President Xi about opening up Chinese markets to U.S. companies, when I first learned of the attack. I will never forget the story. The Israeli Ambassador to China came and told me what happened in Israel and talked about what happened at the Kibbutz Be'eri, where Hamas gathered children, grandparents, mothers, and babies into one community center and gunned them all down.

It reminded me of the story of my grandmother in Chortkiv, in western Ukraine, in 1941, when the Nazis came to her home and asked her to gather her greater family on the porch. About 35 people gathered, from ages 80 to 3 months.

The Nazis said: You are coming with us.

She said: We are not moving.

They gunned them all down—machine-gunned them all down. So the story of Be'eri was eerily reminiscent.

After hearing of the attack, I cut my trip to China short, as important as it was, and got on a plane to Israel as soon as I could. I told the Israeli people, during these troubled times, that the American people were with them.

What I saw in Israel, in the aftermath of the attack, shook me to my core. I met with families whose loved ones were killed, injured, and a woman telling us she was waving good-bye to her son, 12 years old, who was kidnapped and on a motorcycle with a Hamas thug. I will never forget those meetings. There wasn't a dry eye in the house.

The world must never—never—forget the horrors that Hamas inflicted on them that day. The brutality and viciousness of Hamas's attacks—indiscriminate violence against innocent infants, young people at a concert, women, the elderly; sexual violence—taking hundreds of hostages, will remain ever present in my mind and in the minds of the conscience of the world.

Today, we remember the victims of the October 7 attacks—may their memories be a blessing—and we reaffirm our commitment to finally bring home all the hostages still held so cruelly by Hamas, vicious organization that it is.

Two years later, 48 hostages remain in Hamas's captivity, including the remains of two New Yorkers, Omer Neutra and Itay Chen. Every day that these hostages remain in captivity, every day their families are denied full closure and burial of their loved ones is a day too long. We remain committed to bringing the hostages home as soon as possible.

At this crucial moment in negotiations, the Trump administration and all those at the table and the international community must do everything—everything—to finally secure a cease-fire and hostage agreement to end the war in Gaza and to bring the hostages held by Hamas home, and to surge desperately needed humanitarian relief to innocent Palestinians facing heartbreaking levels of hunger and devastation in Gaza, and, finally, to build an enduring and lasting peace.

It is imperative that all parties involved do everything possible to secure this desperately needed agreement.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, now on a different subject, the shutdown, yesterday, for the fifth time—the fifth time—the Republican CR failed to secure enough votes to pass in this Chamber.

After five failed votes, Republicans should understand they cannot go forward unless we come to a bipartisan agreement to address the healthcare crisis facing America.

The shutdown has now lasted almost a week—the Trump-caused shutdown—and Republicans are still in the no-negotiation, “our way or the highway” mode.

President Trump, meanwhile, is not taking this shutdown seriously. Listen to this: Instead of fixing healthcare, instead of reopening the government, Donald Trump seems more interested in sending money to other countries instead of focusing on the problems here at home. His administration is in negotiation right now to send a \$20 billion bailout to Argentina—right in the middle of a government shutdown. You have got to be kidding.

Does the administration really want us to believe there is not enough money for air traffic controllers, not enough money to fix the ACA healthcare premiums, but there somehow is \$20 billion available to bail out

Argentina because Trump likes the government's leader there? Give me a break. It shows you that this administration and Republicans are not serious enough when it comes to people's healthcare and when it comes to ending their shutdown.

So this crisis will not end by sending \$20 billion to Argentina. We need to get serious about fixing the problems here at home, starting with healthcare.

Democrats—our position has not changed. We want the same thing that an overwhelming majority of Americans want, which is to end this shutdown and halt the healthcare crisis that will send premiums spiking for tens of millions of people. Eighty percent of Americans want to extend the ACA tax credits. Fifty-eight percent of Trump voters want to extend those credits.

We need to end this shutdown and halt the healthcare crisis, and we can do both. It is not either-or, as some Republicans seem to think.

We have been wanting to talk to the President and Republicans, have serious negotiations with the President and Republicans, for months. Finally, after months and months of asking Leader THUNE and Speaker JOHNSON to sit down with HAKEEM JEFFRIES and me and asking the President to sit down with us—where he said yes, and then he said no—finally, at the last minute, the President agreed to have one meeting right the night before money was running out, but it was not a productive discussion, and nothing was agreed to.

Now, yesterday, President Trump claimed that he is talking with Democrats on fixing healthcare. He now clearly knows that he has to show the American people at least some fig leaf of caring. So he said he is talking with Democrats on the healthcare issue. Only one problem: It is not true. I am not sure what the President was talking about yesterday, but he certainly hasn't called my office or Leader JEFFRIES.

Still, JEFFRIES and I happily welcome a chance to talk with the President and with Republicans, to sit down and seriously negotiate with them so we can address the healthcare crisis facing Americans—the sooner the better. But it takes two sides to negotiate, and Republicans—particularly Speaker JOHNSON, who seems to be the nub of the crisis—still haven't come to the table in a serious way.

Speaker JOHNSON, perhaps more than anyone else, has dug in and shut the door on any cooperation. JOHNSON has become a massive roadblock to progress.

Yesterday, he even said:

There's nothing to negotiate.

He sent the House home for yet another week. The House hasn't held a vote now for 18 days. They haven't been in session for 2 weeks. That proves beyond a doubt that Speaker JOHNSON is causing and not interested in ending the shutdown. Clearly, at this point, he—he—is the main obstacle.

Ending this shutdown will require Donald Trump to step in and push Speaker JOHNSON to negotiate because without the President's involvement, Speaker JOHNSON and MAGA Republicans in the House are increasingly dug in. JOHNSON has pushed this partisan, one-sided CR and told us to take it or leave it.

I heard my friend Leader THUNE say it is a bipartisan bill, although there hasn't been one drop of Democratic input. You can't call that a bipartisan bill; it is a partisan bill.

Anyway, JOHNSON pushed this partisan, one-sided CR and said: Take it or leave it. I am going home.

He has shut the House down now—the House of Representatives—for 3 weeks, and he has said he won't bring the House back until the Senate Democrats cave to his demands.

He also continues to outright lie—lie—about Democrats trying to give undocumented immigrants health insurance through ACA or Medicaid or Medicare. That was a lie yesterday. It is a lie today. It will be a lie tomorrow. He knows that, and yet he is still saying it to distract from the real issue. He doesn't want to solve the crisis of healthcare premiums, so he makes up these lies, and he hopes it will divert people's attention.

It is not diverting our attention, Speaker JOHNSON. We know you are lying, and we are paying attention to what the American people need.

Every action the Speaker has taken has been geared toward avoiding having to confront the core issue at hand, which is to fix people's healthcare.

So why is he doing this? Well, in part, he doesn't want to come back. He cares more about protecting the Epstein files than protecting the American people from the healthcare crisis. But, also, he has a very big problem. His problem is that House Republicans—his own caucus—are bitterly divided on healthcare. On one hand, a large number within his conference will never agree to any extension of the ACA premium tax credits. They are against it. But there is also a growing number of House Republicans who realize something needs to be done to fix this mess.

Listen to this: MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE—one of the hardest right MAGA loyalist—broke with the Speaker and said we need to fix these ACA tax credits. Let me read what she said. This is not CHUCK SCHUMER; this is MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE:

I'm going to go against everyone on this issue because when the tax credits expire this year my own adult children's insurance premiums for 2026 are going to DOUBLE, along with all the wonderful families and hard-working people in my district.

So hold on to your hats. I think this is the first time I have said this, but on this issue, Representative GREENE said it perfectly. Representative GREENE is absolutely right.

Republicans can't sit by and do nothing while American families pay thou-

sands more out of pocket for healthcare. If the Speaker doesn't relent and these credits expire, people will go bankrupt; people will get sick; some will die.

Inaction would be reprehensible, and the Speaker needs to realize that. That is why, when push comes to shove, Donald Trump needs to step in and get Speaker JOHNSON and Republicans in Congress to come to the table and engage in real negotiations to address this issue.

Democrats stand ready and willing to negotiate. We urge Donald Trump and congressional Republicans to do the same.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, the American people reject what is going on here, and that is the Schumer shutdown. We are now in day 7 of the Schumer shutdown—7 days of wasted time and growing hardship for the American people.

There is a new Harvard-Harris poll that has just come out, and it makes it loud and clear. And what is loud and clear is that 7 in 10 voters in America oppose the government shutdown. Americans overwhelmingly say Democrats should accept a continuing resolution at the current levels of funding until the actual spending bills are passed. It is interesting because 13 times in the Biden administration, the Democrats did exactly that, and it is the thing they are refusing to do right now.

Americans don't want their government closed. They want it open. They want it to work for them. They want a nation that is safe and secure and prosperous. They are sick and tired of Democrats holding them hostage with partisan and unreasonable demands.

What do the Democrats want? What did their demand letter say? It said they want free healthcare for illegal immigrants. This is opposed by an overwhelmingly large number of Americans.

The Democrats shut down the government, and they think they are hurting President Trump. In fact, the Schumer shutdown is hurting people all across America. Across this country, Americans are feeling the pain.

There are headlines that tell the story, and I have a few here. One in New York says "Gov't shutdown threatens food access for Long Island's most vulnerable." Another in Nevada says "Government shutdown threatens food stamps, jobs, national security." In New Jersey, one reads "Hospital-at-home, telehealth programs on hold amid government shutdown." In New

Hampshire: "At least 1,800 NH federal workers to be furloughed or fired during shutdown."

They are not statistics. These are families. These are our troops. These are seniors. These are veterans. These are mothers with young children, working families, patients all across the country. And the stresses upon American families are mounting as a result of the Schumer shutdown.

Paychecks for our servicemembers—well, they run out in days. Reports already show there are signs of financial distress. Every day this shut down continues, the damage drags on. Financial stress will lead to financial crises for many families. Temporary hardships will lead to lasting harm. The American people don't want it. They can't afford it. They want it to end.

Democrats have now voted five specific times to keep the government closed. Now all you need to do is read their ransom note. Democrats are demanding taxpayer-funded healthcare for illegal immigrants. And who do they want to hurt in the process? They want to cut the funding for rural hospitals in my State and yours. That is how they want to pay for healthcare for illegal immigrants. That is their price to reopen the government, to get back to the normal workings of Washington and our government. As a result, the Democrats are holding the American people hostage.

There is a simple solution to the shutdown. The House passed a clean continuing resolution—current spending levels, bipartisan support—to fund the government through November 21. Why November 21? Well, I just heard the minority leader say there has been no discussion between Republicans or Democrats on the continuing resolution. Well, in fact, there has been, and it is the deadline date of November 21 because the chairs and the ranking members of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the House Appropriations Committee all said they needed 7 weeks to finish the bipartisan work on the appropriations bills. So, yes, Senator COLLINS, Senator MURRAY worked together on the clean continuing resolution.

It is interesting because what we see are the Democrats fearing the wrath of the far-left wing of their party. That is why they are not voting to open the government.

The clock continues to tick. Every day Democrats hold out is another day wasted, another day we ought to be making sure the government is open. I hear the Democrats say they want to negotiate. Well, open the government. We are ready to negotiate. Every day the Democrats choose to keep the government closed is another day spent ignoring and rejecting the priorities of the American people. If Democrats actually wanted to negotiate, they would reopen the government today. It is that simple.

So, today, we are going to vote for the sixth time on a clean continuing

resolution, something the Democrats approved 13 times when Joe Biden was President. Senate Democrats have a choice: Vote yes to end the Schumer shutdown or vote no, and tell the American people why their pain and their opinion just doesn't matter to the Democrats.

Let me end where I began: 7 out of 10 Americans oppose this shutdown. Americans overwhelmingly say Democrats should accept the clean continuing resolution that we are voting on here today. The American people have spoken. They want their government open, and they want it open now. It is time that the Democrats listened to them.

I yield the floor.

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

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

ISRAEL

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, today is October 7, 2025. It has been 731 days—2 years—that the war has been raging in Israel.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists stormed through a fence line separating Gaza and Israel, and early that morning, they brutally slaughtered over 1,200 people—men, women, children, moms and dads, grandparents. There were 4,000-plus people injured, and there were 251 people taken hostage. Forty-eight still remain today, 2 years later.

It is hard to process what it is like for those hostages—living in tunnels, stored underground, moved from place to place. Who knows what has happened to them.

Two years—for 2 years, Israel has said one simple thing: This war ends when Hamas, that terrorist organization, is not in charge of Gaza—because, clearly, they cannot be trusted—and when our hostages come home. For 2 years this war has raged unnecessarily because a terrorist organization is determined to drive Jews out of Israel—for 2 years.

I have been in Israel a couple of times during the war. I have been able to visit with senior leadership there to be able to get a status update, but I also took the opportunity to drive south, right along to the Gaza border, to visit the kibbutzim that are now empty, which were previously full of families and children. I was there in the springtime last year and saw the flowers popping up just organically, on their own, in an empty kibbutz, and I realized the horror of what happened that day.

I visited the Nova music festival—a just a big, open field with trees around it. You can look across the horizon and see Gaza. The Nova music festival site of that field was just a gathering place

for literally an all-night set of concerts that were running early into the next morning. People were just there enjoying the music, until terrorists came onto that field and started killing as many people as they could, raping as many women as they could, tormenting as many people as they could, and grabbing folks and taking them back into Gaza as hostages.

Elkana was one of those men. He was a husband. He was a dad of a young son. He was actually taken hostage back to Gaza from the Nova music festival while he was literally trying to help the wounded. But he remains a hostage still today, one of those 48.

President Trump has laid out a 21-point plan and has presented it between the folks in Gaza and Hamas and Israel to leadership all along the Arab world and has made a very simple statement: We have to find a way to be able to end the fighting, and when the fighting ends, Hamas cannot be in leadership in Gaza. Not only do they not have the trust of Israel; they don't have the trust of anyone in the region. They have to go. The hostages have to be released. There will have to be restoration in Gaza in the days ahead that should be led by the Arab communities around them. But there has to be a different path, and there has to be a recognition that Israel has a right to exist.

In the last 2 years, we have seen not only Hamas attacking Israel, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad attacking Israel, Hezbollah attacking Israel, the Houthis attacking Israel, and then missiles and rockets being fired and drones being fired from Iran; and all the while, we hear some protesters in the streets of America, out on college campuses, chanting "from the river to the sea," literally in support of some of those terrorists who are trying to kill as many Jews and drive the Jews out of Israel.

So on this day, October 7, I want to remind this body and Americans that we continue to stand by Israel. We continue to be able to stand by their right to not only exist but to be able to thrive and to live in peace. That is their right as a nation.

As we have faced terrorism and the threats of terrorism that come to us, we as a nation have pushed back against terrorism around the world and said: We will live in freedom and in peace.

Regardless of their opinions of us, we have the right to be able to live in freedom and in peace, and we stand with Israel's right to be able to do the same, to be able to live in freedom and in peace.

Now, we all grieve for innocent civilians that are living in Gaza right now, as Hamas literally uses them as a shield to protect their terrorist ambitions. No one wants to see civilians killed. But leave no doubt, Hamas cannot exist, as an organization and an entity.

And the folks in Hezbollah should hear clearly, and the Houthis should

hear clearly: If you stand with Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, you are a threat to the security of the entire world and the region. You cannot continue to function as a terrorist organization and think that Israel will look away or that America will look away. We will not and cannot and will not.

So I encourage this body to pause and realize what is happening on the other side of the world right now and what has been raging for 2 years today; and for those hostages that are still being held today, that we would remember and we would continue to be able to stand against anti-Semitism and with the nation of Israel.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, we are 7 days deep into a government shutdown—what a ridiculous waste of time; what a painful, ridiculous waste of time for the Nation.

I can't tell you how frustrating it is, because I have been here long enough now to be able to see what the negotiations look like. Let me tell you what it just looks like for the last few years even. Let's go back just through the Biden administration.

Every single end of September, as we approached the deadline for government funding, this body had a conversation: Do we want to remain open and continue negotiating or do we want a shutdown? And every single time, during the Biden administration, this body said: It is harmful to the American people and to Federal workers to have a shutdown. Let's keep things open and continue to be able to negotiate.

So at the end of every September, which is the end of our fiscal year, this body voted to keep the government open and to continue to negotiate.

What happens when the Trump administration comes? Well, during the Trump administration, Democrats have determined that they want to show they are fighting and raging—that they are the resistance against President Trump—and so they have determined that the best way to do that is just to be able to shut the government down.

The same effect happens for Federal workers. The same effect happens for the Nation. We have the same opinions across the world as the entire world looks at the United States of America, the greatest Nation in the world, which is apparently not able to keep its government open because my Democratic colleagues have determined they want to show that they are the resistance.

Well, who gets to pay the penalty for the resistance, and what does that really look like?

We have had several votes that have happened here where we have had what is called a clean continuing resolution. This body knows it well because we voted on 13 of them in the last 4 years—a clean continuing resolution—and passed all of them. It was just a moment to say: Can we keep the gov-

ernment open and continue to negotiate?

The body determined: Yes, let's keep negotiating, but let's not hurt Federal workers and their families and not hurt members of the military and their families. Let's not hurt them, but let's keep negotiating here.

So we did that 13 times in just the last 4 years, until now.

My Democratic colleagues, the President knows full well, have brought forward a proposal, and their proposal is titled "Continuing Appropriations and Extensions and Other Matters." Now, ours is just titled "Continuing Appropriations and Extensions." Theirs is titled "Continuing Appropriations and Extensions and Other Matters." It should make you say: Well, what are the other matters?

Ours just keeps the government open; that is, the Republicans' just keeps the government open. It is status quo, where we are—the same level of spending, the same functionality. That is where it focuses in on.

My Democratic colleagues have brought up their own proposal, which is \$1.5 trillion in spending addition, and they include a couple of new little nuggets in there—their "and other matters." They throw in, like, section 135, which has a new element on carbon management expenditures dealing with fossil fuels. They have a new section on climate change initiatives that are built into their "and other matters." They have section 154, which is getting additional funding to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

They have section 2306, which allows a new extension of electric vehicles getting access to HOV lanes.

These are the demands that they have put in to say: We will not reopen the government unless we get electric vehicles into HOV lanes and additional money for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and carbon management expenditures.

Oh, by the way, there was a \$50 billion rural healthcare fund that Republicans passed in the One Big Beautiful Bill. They also want to get rid of that \$50 billion rural healthcare fund, saying: We need to wipe that out.

Can I tell you, rural hospitals really need the help. Fifty billion would really be a huge help for them. We have called that the Moon shot to be able to bring rural healthcare up to the standards they need to be across the country. They just wiped that out and included that in their "in other matters" section, to say "Yes, we want to open up the government, but we also want to close down more rural hospitals at the same time."

Listen, we have disagreements on things. It is not just because we are different parties; we come from different States and different areas. We have different perspectives. Welcome to America. We have different opinions on things. That is what this body is supposed to be about. But when we have disagreements, we should be able to ac-

tually sit down like grownups and talk to each other and figure out how to be able to solve them. That is what actually should be done. This is not a radical concept; this is a pretty straightforward concept.

Surprisingly enough, my colleagues have agreed with me in the past on this. Let me give just you some examples.

My colleague Senator BEN RAY LUJAN in September of last year said:

Shutting down the government should be a non-starter.

My colleague Senator MARK WARNER said:

Government shutdowns unleash chaos on Federal workers, delay pay for servicemembers, and weaken our position on the global stage.

My colleague BERNIE SANDERS said:

Shutting down the government is a serious and dangerous action that we must do everything possible to prevent. Shutting down the government would impact tens of millions of our fellow Americans who would be unable to access government services.

My colleague and friend JACKY ROSEN said:

A government shutdown would be devastating for [Nevada] families. [It would] increase housing costs, take away food assistance for seniors & children in need.

My colleague Senator MARK KELLY in September of 2023 said:

A government shutdown would have serious impacts. Servicemembers won't get their paychecks. Airports could have major delays. Nutrition assistance for children could be cut off. We can't let any of that happen.

My colleague Senator ELIZABETH WARREN said:

The least we can do—the bare minimum that we can do—would be to pass a continuing resolution to keep the doors open and the lights on.

My colleague BRIAN SCHATZ said:

I've seen the same thing, over and over again. Shutdowns don't work.

My colleague Senator GARY PETERS said:

A government shutdown will be a disaster for our economy and for people in Michigan and across the country.

My colleague TIM KAINE said:

I'm a senator from Virginia. Some of the hardest effects of a shutdown would be seen in my state.

My colleague DICK DURBIN said:

[Negotiating to avoid a shutdown holds] the livelihood of the American people and the proper functioning of this government hostage.

My colleague AMY KLOBUCHAR said:

Shutdowns are not good for the economy.

How about this one. I have to find my favorite. My colleague CHRIS MURPHY, my friend, made the statement:

There is a time and a place to debate health care, just like there is a time and place to debate energy policy and immigration and education—but not when the funding of the federal government, and all the lives that are impacted by it, hang in the balance.

I could not agree more.

So we have an opportunity just to be able to open the government up. We

have literally a bill on the floor today, just like we had yesterday, that has already passed the House of Representatives that would just open us up for another 6 weeks now, allow us to be able to get appropriations work done and to reopen—the same thing we did 4 times during the Biden administration in September; the same thing we have done 13 times in the last 4 years just to be able to keep the negotiations going and to not have all these consequences.

I have worked for years to be able to end government shutdowns. My colleagues that are here on the floor know it full well; we have talked about it before multiple times.

I have a bill. It is called Prevent Government Shutdowns. It is very straightforward. It just says that if we get to a moment like this, instead of Federal workers and their families suffering the consequences, we do. We have to stay in session 7 days a week, we can't move to any other bill other than appropriations, and we have to be able to get our work done.

It is as simple as, if you don't finish your work in class, you have to stay after class to finish your work, but it holds everyone else harmless and puts the pressure on Members of Congress, where it should be.

This is not a controversial issue outside of this body. The last time we had a vote on this bill, we had 56 votes, and 1 Member that was absent that day stated publicly they would have voted for it if they had been in that day. So we would have had 57 votes. We just need 60 to be able to make this thing law so that we would literally never have a government shutdown ever again—ever.

We would still have the debate on budget issues. We are going to have issues of budget disagreement. That is going to happen. We don't agree on everything. We should have the fights on budget, but we should have the fights here and hold everyone else harmless in the process.

We are at 57. We just needed 60 votes, and literally this day and this time wouldn't happen.

We need to solve this, and we can. We have solved a lot of difficult issues in the Senate. This is not too hard to solve.

My friend and colleague who is the ranking member on Appropriations has worked incredibly hard—Senator MURRAY—on appropriations for years and knows this process can be done well. But the last time we did appropriations in the time and in the order it should have been done was 1997—1997.

So let's fix our process. The entire country is staring at us, thinking, can't you guys get this together?

Yes, we can. We just have to agree not only to reopen the government, which should be the lowest threshold, but then fix our process of how we actually do this work to make sure that we actually get the 12 appropriations bills done on time, and when we don't, we stay after class until it is done and just stay at it.

We can figure this out. There are 100 smart people in this room—100 smart, stubborn people but 100 smart people in this room. Let's figure it out together.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, let me just start by giving our lawless President and OMB Director a little primer on the letter of the law because this morning, we learned they are plotting to try to rob furloughed Federal workers of backpay at the end of this shutdown.

This flies in the face of the plain text of the law, which could not be more clear. President Trump should actually know this. He has caused more shutdowns than any other President, after all, and he signed the law that guaranteed their pay. It is not new, it is not surprising, and, in fact, OPM guidance that the administration actually issued last month reaffirmed that furloughed employees will be paid.

Trump doesn't get to change the rules and rob workers just because he is worried his shutdown is backfiring. Scaring and intimidating workers will not work. He is not fooling anyone.

I know Republican leaders desperately want to ignore the looming healthcare crisis they caused. They have put their heads in the sand for months. They have spun wild lies to try to bury the truth, and they are hoping people stop talking about it. But every day, that gets just harder because every day, another warning light goes off showing just how devastating it will be if Republicans refuse to extend the ACA tax credits and let people's premiums skyrocket.

A new Kaiser Family Foundation poll found that 7 out of 10 families would not be able to afford their coverage if premiums doubled, and 4 in 10 would likely just go uninsured. That means that people will skip their basic care, they will skimp on their prescriptions, and they will miss lifesaving treatments. The hard reality is that people will die—people who otherwise would have sought the care they needed.

To every Republican who thinks they can keep sitting on their hands and waiting this out, you need to understand this is not some distant crisis you can ignore. Premiums are being locked in right now. Letters are going out to families announcing shocking price increases this month. In Idaho, open enrollment actually starts next week.

How is that not urgent to every Republican who keeps trying to say "We can talk about this later"? "Later" is simply too late.

By the way, why wouldn't Republican leaders talk about this earlier? We have been asking to fix this for months and months and months.

For all the talk of "Oh, we can't discuss healthcare while government is shut down," well, you didn't discuss it while government was open either. Where have you been? And where are you right now, for that matter?

House Republicans are not even here, and they have not been here for 3 weeks. I cannot help but note the stark contrast between how little House Republicans seem to care about opening up the government and preventing massive healthcare hikes and how much they cared about shoveling trillions in tax breaks at some of the richest people in the world earlier this year. Where is that urgency now?

I mean, when the tax breaks for billionaires were set to expire in December, that was the same time as these healthcare credits expire. Republicans made that priority No. 1. You can bet they fast-tracked relief for the bigwigs and fat cats because heaven forbid billionaires like Trump have to worry about filling up their private jets.

But families worried about healthcare? Republican leaders refuse to talk about it. They voted down efforts to save these tax credits three times before government funding was even in question, and they have spent the last few weeks saying that our insistence on preventing people's premiums from doubling is "unreasonable." Unreasonable?

Even now, the best Republicans can offer is that later we can maybe, possibly, talk about potentially doing something someday. That is pretty cold comfort to families who are staring down thousands upon thousands in higher healthcare costs next year. Those premium hikes aren't maybe happening someday; they are for real, and they are getting finalized right now.

If the Republican leader would rather send us home for the weekend than have a serious conversation; if House Republicans want to keep hiding as far as they can from the negotiating table; if you are going to not talk with us, then I beg my colleagues to at least talk to your constituents and see what this healthcare crisis looks like for them, because here is the thing Republicans seem especially keen to ignore: This is a problem where inaction will overwhelmingly hurt their own constituents.

News flash for my colleagues: Over three-quarters of the families with healthcare coverage through the ACA marketplace are in red States.

Do you know which five States will see the highest healthcare rate hikes next year? West Virginia is looking at a 387-percent rate hike for families that rely on ACA tax credits; Wyoming, 382 percent; Alaska, a 346-percent rate hike; Tennessee, 320 percent; and Mississippi, 314 percent. Those are five red States where premiums are going to more than quadruple for families that rely on those tax credits.

But do you know what? Let's keep going. Let's do the next five. These are States where the average premium will more than triple for families relying on the tax credits: Texas, a 289-percent increase; South Carolina, 285 percent; Alabama, 284 percent; South Dakota, 235 percent; and North Dakota, 234 percent.

So there you have it, the 10 States facing the biggest healthcare increases if Republicans refuse to act, all red States.

And you know what—I can still go on—premiums are going to more than double for families relying on the tax credits for States like Florida, North Carolina, Ohio, nearly every other red State. So the bottom line is, a lot of people are going to be hurt if Republicans refuse to save healthcare, and they are represented by Republicans. At least, they would be represented by Republicans, but our House colleagues are nowhere to be found. They have been gone for 3 weeks.

So my message to Republican leaders: You need to get serious about opening up the government and addressing the healthcare crisis before those premiums double for families across the country. You need to get serious now before those higher costs are locked in and before families back home decide they can't afford to stay healthy.

And, you know, even if Republicans want to hide from the negotiating table, they are not going to be able to hide from this issue because if they stay home and refuse to come back to DC to hammer out a solution, the people they represent back home are going to make their voices heard about this. They are going to say: Hey, my monthly premium is going up by over a thousand bucks—monthly premium. What are you doing about that?

They are going to say: Hey, I am going to lose my healthcare. What am I supposed to do?

They are going to say: Hey, if you care so much about opening the government like you say, if you care so much about lowering costs, why don't you get back and go to work?

When that message breaks through to all the Republicans who are just trying to ignore it, as I think it is very clear it is beginning to, here is another message for them: Democrats are still here. We are still at the table. And we are still ready to work together on a bipartisan deal to reopen the government and address this healthcare crisis.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The Senator from Connecticut.

ISRAEL

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today we mark 2 years since the horrific attack in Israel on October 7, 2023.

Two years ago, Israel was the victim of one of the most vicious, vile, terrible crimes in recent memory—maybe in all of history. Thousands of Hamas terrorists poured across the border and slaughtered more than 1,200 Israelis and abducted dozens more.

So today we remember, as we must, all who lost their lives, and we remember the families who have lost their loved ones. And our hearts go out to them, as they did in those days immediately following that horror.

We cannot forget the 48 hostages still enduring unimaginable suffering at the hands of Hamas, and we pray for their return. The wound of October 7 is still healing. It may never heal, but it is also a call to action and remembrance.

In the days immediately following October 7, I traveled to Israel. I met with families of those hostages. I have spoken since then to members of the IDF and to Palestinians. The war has never been against Palestinians; it is against Hamas. And I have been so deeply moved by the strength and bravery of those hostage families as well as many others. I have family in Israel, so this war is personal, and in my visits to Israel, I have also visited other nations and met with leaders in the region.

And today, I have more hope than ever that there is a narrow path to bringing those hostages home, to providing more humanitarian aid, and meeting the crisis in Gaza—a humanitarian crisis—as well as a permanent cease-fire, an end to Hamas's threat to Israel.

Today, I stand in solidarity with Israel. I believe in Israel's right to self-defense against this kind of terror. We should commit ourselves to take advantage of this window of opportunity. I hope that the peace plan that is on the table will provide a path, as it should, to everyone who wants an end to the suffering and bloodshed and the humanitarian crisis that continues, a peace that guarantees the security of the Israeli people, an end to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and the end of Hamas, so that all may live free of fear and oppression.

I hope that the memory of all who lost their lives on October 7 will be a blessing and that we will never forget them and honor them through action, honor them through the pursuit of peace and justice.

I am proud to have visited as well with members of communities in this country that have stood with Israel, and I am hopeful that the bipartisan unity consistently shown by this body over decades will be continued. It needs to be strengthened. It has frayed, but bipartisanship has always characterized support for Israel.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will treat this day not only with the solemnity and seriousness that it deserves but also with a renewed commitment to make this cause bipartisan, the pursuit of peace, support of Israel, an end to the humanitarian crisis, and a lasting, stable solution for the Middle East.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

RECESS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:12 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m.

and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

EN BLOC NOMINATIONS—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, it has been 1 whole week since Republicans shut down the government. So why did they close the government? Because Republicans decided they would rather shut down the entire government than lower costs and save healthcare for millions of Americans.

Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress are knocking 15 million people off their health insurance, driving up the cost of healthcare for everyone else, closing rural hospitals, shutting down community health centers, and much, much more—all so that they can fund giant tax cuts for billionaires. Those are Republican priorities.

Democrats are fighting to prevent insurance premiums from doubling. We are fighting to help American families hang onto their health insurance, because no one should go bankrupt because they got sick and needed to see a doctor.

In the next few days, Americans will begin getting letters in the mail, telling them their insurance premiums are going up—way, way up. For some families, those premiums are doubling. Others will get priced out of their plans completely, leaving them with no coverage at all.

Here is what that means: Thanks to Republicans in Congress, a 60-year-old couple making \$85,000 a year will have to pay more than \$22,000 every year to keep their coverage—\$22,000. For families already hanging on by their fingernails, that could be a matter of keeping healthcare coverage or just giving up, and that could be a matter of life and death.

I know what it is like. Growing up, there was never a time when my family didn't worry about money. My daddy ended up as a janitor. When I was 12, my daddy had a heart attack. He lost his job. The family's station wagon was repossessed, and we were about to lose our home. My mother had never worked outside the home, but that is when she put on her best dress, got herself a minimum wage job of answering phones at Sears, and saved our home and saved our family.

Our healthcare system was already broken with high premiums, insurance denials, and huge copays, and that was before Donald Trump and the Republicans decided to make the healthcare crisis so much worse.

Democrats are fighting to reverse Republicans' giant healthcare cuts and lower costs for Americans. Right now, it is only the Republicans in Congress who stand in the way. Affordable Care Act tax credits help people afford their healthcare, and they are set to expire at the end of the year. And insurance companies are resetting their rates right now—right now.

We are barreling toward a tipping point for American families. If Congress does not act, nearly 22 million Americans will see their health insurance premiums more than double on average. Democrats want to lower those costs right now. Republicans are shutting down the entire government instead of coming to the table to help American families.

An overwhelming majority of Americans wants us to extend these tax credits so that insurance premiums don't go through the roof. Even most Trump supporters agree with us on this. Donald Trump himself just said he wants to make it better. It is only Senate Republicans who are standing in the way. Senate Republicans have refused to even sit down and negotiate over healthcare cuts, even though thousands of their constituents will see their costs go way up.

For example, in Alabama, about 447,000 Americans will see their insurance premiums skyrocket. In Alaska, about 24,000 Americans will see their insurance premiums skyrocket. In Arkansas, it is about 144,000 Americans. In Florida, it is 4.4 million Americans. In Idaho, it is 101,000 Americans. In Indiana, it is 290,000 Americans. In Iowa, it is 118,000 Americans. In Kansas, it is 182,000 Americans. In Kentucky, it is 77,000 Americans. In Louisiana, it is 276,000 Americans. In Maine, it is 54,000 Americans. In Mississippi, it is 320,000 Americans. In Missouri, it is 383,000 Americans. In Montana, it is 67,000 Americans. In North Carolina, it is 888,000 Americans. In North Dakota, it is 38,000 Americans. In Ohio, it is 514,000 Americans. In Oklahoma, it is 290,000 Americans. In Pennsylvania, it is 422,000 Americans. In South Carolina, it is 588,000 Americans. In South Dakota, it is 50,000 Americans. In Tennessee, it is 593,000 Americans. In Texas, it is 3.7 million Americans; nearly 4 million Americans will see their insurance premiums skyrocket. In Utah, it is 395,000 Americans. In West Virginia, it is 63,000 Americans. In Wisconsin, it is 272,000 Americans. In Wyoming, it is 43,000 Americans.

Look, Democrats are fighting to lower costs for every single one of those Americans. Where are their Republican Senators? Those were the insurance premiums, which will cause about 5 million people to lose their coverage because they just can't afford those higher costs.

But Republicans are also cutting healthcare for another 10 million Americans. Those are seniors in nursing homes, mamas with newborn babies, and it is your neighbor who needs a wheelchair or a home health aide to be able to live independently.

Democrats have said, time and time again: If Congress is going to pass a budget for the U.S. Government, then saving healthcare for those millions of Americans has to be part of the deal. We will not stop fighting for Americans' access to their doctors and to their hospitals.

What has been the response of Donald Trump? He doesn't want to talk about healthcare. Nope. Instead, his plan is to inflict maximum pain on Americans during this Republican shutdown.

His right-hand man, Russ Vought, is shutting down important infrastructure projects as political punishment. They are threatening to fire many more Federal workers. And get this: The White House is furloughing hundreds of staffers because of the Republican shutdown, but they are keeping every single DOGE staffer on.

In total, the Trump administration is furloughing over half a million workers who work every day to keep our country running. But at least Elon Musk's pals at DOGE are safe, and that tells you everything you need to know about the Republican plans.

Look, this may feel like a surprise to millions of Americans, but the Republican attack on Americans' healthcare has been long in the making. It is exactly the shutdown playbook Donald Trump and his lackeys laid out in their Project 2025. Since day one, Trump has tried again and again and again to shut down the parts of government he just doesn't like. He has tried to illegally wipe away millions of dollars for programs that Congress had already agreed to fund. He has illegally fired tens of thousands of Federal workers. He has illegally sent our troops to invade American cities.

The response of Republicans in the Senate has been to bow down and let Donald Trump do all of that and more.

Now, during a government shutdown, the President of the United States is saying: "A lot of good can come" from a shutdown, and "we can get rid of a lot of things we didn't want."

While all of that is going on, why would Democrats sign off on a Republican budget without ironclad guarantees to make sure that Trump won't just turn around and go back on the deal and not lower costs for families? The answer is, we won't. While Senate Republicans keep taking orders from their wannabe King and drag out their government shutdown, Senate Democrats will not stop fighting to save healthcare and to lower costs for families. We want rollbacks of the Republican cuts that will take away healthcare coverage from 15 million people and drive up insurance premiums for everyone else.

This is not a partisan issue. This is not a partisan fight. Democrats are in this fight for all Americans, and we urge Senate Republicans to join us to protect healthcare coverage for millions of Americans and end this painful government shutdown.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1337

Mr. KING. Madam President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be

discharged from further consideration of S. 1337 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. KING. Madam President, I want to express some thoughts on this motion that was just objected to.

We are in an ongoing, serious, and debilitating conflict in the world of cyber.

It is one of the most serious threats this country faces. In fact, right at this moment, it is probably the most serious threat this country faces from nation-states, from hacktivists, from ransomware, from crooks around the world. It is a serious daily challenge.

We are being attacked—institutions in this country, including the U.S. Government, including the Department of Defense, including the CIA, but also private sector businesses are being attacked 5 billion times a day.

I visited a small bank in Maine that is being attacked in the hundreds of thousands of times in a week, a small local bank. I have talked to utility executives that are being attacked—one major utility—3 million times a day, that the adversaries are trying to get into our systems to compromise them, which would be devastating in a time of conflict.

Imagine for a moment a shot isn't fired, but the financial system collapses; water systems are poisoned; the electrical system is down; the gas pipeline system is compromised; healthcare, hospitals are down. That is a devastating attack. By not moving this bill, we are unilaterally disarming in the midst of this crisis.

What this bill does is very simple. It simply renews an authority that was passed in 2015 to create a mechanism where the private sector and the Federal Government can exchange information about cyber attacks.

The private sector is protected from liability for exchanging, for sharing the information. Then the government can collect that information, warn other sectors of potential attacks that are indicated in these kinds of reports, can help the victims respond, and also can help us to form a more coherent national strategy to deal with these attacks.

I don't understand why the gentleman from Kentucky is objecting to—and this isn't a spending bill. This has nothing to do with the continuing resolution. This is simply an authority that has been in place, as I say, for 10 years. It expired at the end of the fiscal year, and we want to extend that in order to maintain this kind of interaction, this kind of exchange of information that is critical to our ability to

realistically confront this really—I can't overemphasize how serious this crisis is.

We just learned, for example, that the Chinese were in our telecommunication system. We know that the Russians have made consistent efforts to penetrate our critical infrastructure, along with the Chinese. This is not an abstract threat. This is before us right now. It is happening right now. And if we don't pass this extension, as I said, we are unilaterally disarming.

I understand the chairman of the committee has some other items that he would like to consider. He is the chairman of the committee. I urge him to bring those issues before the committee, bring a bill to the floor, and they can be considered. But don't, in the meantime, hobble our ability to protect our citizens and entities, people and companies and businesses and our own government, from these ongoing attacks.

At this very moment, this government is under attack by cyber criminals, by state actors. They are not doing it for fun. They are doing it maliciously to undermine our country and also to steal from us.

The amount stolen through ransomware attacks, which can occur, by the way, at a local hospital or a town—the amount of money is in the billions every year.

So I hope that as we keep coming to the floor to bring this matter up, we can have the withdrawal of the objection by the chairman of the committee because—the final thing I will say is what I said before: This is no time to be lowering our defenses, to be compromising our ability to defend ourselves from an attack that we know is happening and that we know is going to continue to happen.

We know that this is going to continue. This attack is going to continue on our country, on our institutions, on our businesses, on our citizens, and we have to be on guard. We cannot—we cannot—allow this authority to lapse and compromise our ability to defend ourselves and the people of the United States.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). The Senator from Montana.

Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, first, I want to congratulate the Presiding Officer on the momentous occasion of becoming a golden gavel recipient. That is the achievement of a lifetime.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if any nominations are confirmed during today's session of the Senate, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about a historic occasion

where we are passing a CRA for the Miles City Resource Management Plan.

In the last 5 years, in the previous administration, we have seen historic attacks upon American industry, primarily our resource industry, which is so critical to Montana's economy and, most importantly, is critical to the 21st-century economy of the United States.

We are facing an energy crisis where we are not going to have enough power, literally, in our grid to power our homes, turn the lights on in our homes, and, most importantly, fuel the 21st-century economic revolution that is coming.

From AI, to digital currency, to quantum computing, the needs for energy will be insatiable here in America and around the world. For us to lead in these technologies, to lead in artificial intelligence, to beat China in the digital currency game, to beat the rest of the world in quantum computing—if we want those technologies to exist in a free and flourishing market, in a free republic like the United States of America, we have to lead in those industries. That means we have to literally have enough electrons, we have to have enough electricity, we have to have enough power—baseload, reliable, cheap power—in our grid to power those industries, and right now, we do not. Not only do we not have it today, we won't have it tomorrow if we do not expand our resource economy yet again.

That means things like coal have to be unleashed. China is building coal plants every single day. We haven't built one in decades here in America. Right now, there is enough coal under the ground in Montana to fuel our economy for another thousand years. It is about time we start extracting it yet again. Not only will it mean thousands of jobs in Montana—rural Montana—where economic development has stalled for decades, but most importantly, it means economic dominance for the greatest Nation in the history of mankind.

Many other nations depend upon the economic leadership that America provides, and in the 21st century, that leadership will depend on a strong, 21st-century economy based on cryptographic currency, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing. All those industries revolve around cheap, reliable baseload power. We need that out of the coal mines in Montana; we need it all across the Nation.

We need to bring commonsense policies back to our resource economy. We don't want to be pouring cyanide in our rivers, blowing tops off mountains, and clear-cutting forests. We do not want to go back to those days. We have learned our lesson, and nowhere more have we learned that than in Montana, the site of America's largest Superfund site based on disastrous copper and coal mining from decades ago. We have learned our lessons from those.

If we don't mine these resources in America, all we are doing is pushing

that mining somewhere else—places like Africa, South America, and Asia—where there are no environmental regulations, there are no labor laws. Eight-year-old kids are hauling these materials out of mines on the backs of their heads—child labor, slave labor, cyanide being poured into lakes without any environmental regulation whatsoever. We do it cleaner, safer, and better here in America than anywhere else in the world, and Montana is the perfect place to start reviving our resource economy.

So I am proud to support this CRA. I am proud to see the resource economy of Montana once again be supported by our government. It is so important for these projects that they have a predictable regulatory environment to operate in. When these companies have to raise billions of dollars in capital to fund these projects, they have to have comfort that the projects will not simply be canceled the next time the political winds shift.

Four years is not a long time when you are making tens of billions of dollars in investments—pipelines, mining, powerplants, and huge resource projects. Our investors—American investors and foreign investors—need to have confidence that if they put dollars into the American economy, those dollars are going to be respected, encouraged, and, quite frankly, rewarded.

Nowhere is it better to mine coal than right here in the U.S. of A. and nowhere better than Montana. We have hard-working people with a great work ethic who take pride in their work and want to fuel the 21st-century economic explosion that will happen right here in this country.

The time is now to build our electrical grid. The time is now to revitalize our resource economy, from timber, to coal, to copper mining, to oil and gas. The Miles City CRA brings back common sense and gives certainty to a resource economy and, most importantly, our private sector partners, who will make the investment so that is possible.

I vote in favor of this and hope our colleagues on the other side of the aisle also support the Miles City CRA.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today because the American people deserve affordable healthcare, and they deserve a government that works for them—not a government of threats, not a government of bullies. They deserve a government that comes together in a bipartisan way to find solutions to the problems and challenges they face.

Sadly, right now, we are on day 18 where the Republicans in the House of Representatives have not reported to work—day 18. I went over there this morning, and there are literally more statues of former Republican leaders than there are actual Republican House Members in the entire House. I

walked down the hallways. I went to the door. I went to see if anyone was there. There is no one there. There are just a bunch of statues of former leaders.

We need real leaders right now over in the House that are willing to sit down and negotiate with Members of the Senate and, yes, with the President—not to be rubberstamps of the President but to actually come back and say “This is what I am hearing from my constituents” because we know what they are hearing. We have seen the numbers. And some of them have been willing to say it—some of the House Members on the Republican side and some of the Senators.

Three-fourths of the people on the Affordable Care Act plans, according to a study from the Kaiser Family Foundation, three-fourths of them are in States won by President Trump. The vast majority of them are in red congressional districts.

So we know what they are hearing because it is what I have been hearing. Some of the people are already getting notices in some States—like in Senator WARNOCK and Senator OSSOFF's State of Georgia—and they are seeing a doubling of their premiums or a tripling of their premiums.

I have heard the proposed numbers in the State of Minnesota, and it is not pretty.

A few weeks ago, I went on a 13-county rural tour in my State—I visit all 87 counties every year—and I met with soybean farmers. One of them told me that what he was seeing, between the tariffs drying up his market—60 percent of the soybeans in Minnesota are exported around the world. We are proud of that. We feed the world. Those markets have dried up. They can't sell their soybeans. They can't get a good price for their soybeans. I heard the same thing from our corn growers.

So when you look at what is happening with their markets and then you look at what is happening with their input costs for things like fertilizer because of the Trump tariffs and you look at the increases for them in their daily living expenses—like electricity bills and grocery bills—because of these tariffs and, yes, these healthcare premiums—you look at this, and one soybean farmer told me this is the perfect storm of ugly.

So what should our answer be—to stay away like these Republican House Members have done because they are afraid to have a vote on the release of the Epstein files? That soybean farmer is like: What? Go take care of your business. Your job is to come here and help me.

Families' budgets are being squeezed. The President promised he would bring down prices on day one, but instead, it is day 261, and the opposite is happening, especially with healthcare.

This isn't a December problem or a January problem; this is a “now” problem because November 1 is the date. November 1 is the day when these plans

that are called different things in different States—in my State, it is called MNsure—when these plans, which over 25 percent of our farmers are on, for one thing, and a whole bunch of small business owners—they are not working at some big corporation. They do not have the option of getting their plans that way. Instead, they rely on these types of plans from the State. Ours existed even before the Affordable Care Act, but it is one of those Affordable Care Act plans.

So November 1 is when that marketplace opens up, and then they have to decide—they can't afford a doubling of the premiums. That is what this fight is about.

A poll published last week found that 78 percent of Americans think we should extend the ACA tax credits, including significant majorities of Democrats, Independents, and Republicans.

Why don't my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and my colleagues who aren't here over in the House—Republicans—why don't they see this as an opportunity to do something good, to come to the table and do something good? That is what this is about to me. I thought that is what we were elected to do, but, instead, what do we see?

According to Minnesota's health insurance marketplace, a 30-year-old in Mower County—that is one of our more rural counties kind of near the Iowa border—earning \$39,000 per year would see their premium increase from \$77 per month this year to \$225 a month for the same plan—no extra bells and whistles; the same plan.

A family of three in Roseau County—that is way up north—with an annual income of \$106,000—this is a family of three—would see their premium jump from \$675 a month to \$1,100 a month—an annual increase of more than \$5,000.

A 60-year-old married couple in Bemidji earning \$85,000 per year—this is in the middle of our State, a beautiful lakes area. It is the home of Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox. They just dealt with a horrible, horrible storm, and their town showed this incredible resilience.

A 60-year-old married couple in Bemidji earning \$85,000 per year will see their premium climb from less than \$500 per month to \$1,700 per month. That means an additional \$15,000 next year for the same coverage. These increases are going to force people to make a decision.

My rural hospitals told me—behind closed doors, some of it—they said: So we have a whole bunch of people that are going to be hurt by these Medicaid cuts that were in the budget bill this summer, and we have a whole bunch of problems because \$500 billion in Medicare cuts was automatically triggered by that Big Beautiful Bill, as it is called—or “Big Beautiful Betrayal” of a bill.

Five hundred billion in Medicare cuts was triggered why? Because the debt went up so high because of all the tax

cuts for the wealthiest. That is just in law. If you put up the debt that much, you are going to get Medicare cuts that aren't going to hit individuals—they will eventually—but they are going to hit these hospitals. I say “eventually” because there is not going to be anyplace to go get your healthcare if you are in a rural area and these hospitals and clinics start closing down.

So on top of all that—Medicaid and Medicare—then you layer on these Affordable Care Act issues. What the people—the doctors and nurses—told me is that because that is how so many of their patients get their healthcare, if they don't get their insurance, which some of them just won't be able to afford unless we do something about it, which is fully within our power to do—like, literally, you can take that money that was going to go to Argentina and screw over our soybean farmers in Minnesota, that \$20 billion—I have no idea why that was a good idea—you can take that money, and that is going to pay for a big chunk of just the first year of these tax credits for regular Americans and not screw over our soybean farmers.

So, anyway, they told me that if you make sure these people still have insurance, that is a huge deal to these rural hospitals. It means that they can maybe just barely eke by and make it. Otherwise, people are going to get rid of their insurance, and they are going to show up at the emergency rooms because they are not going to be getting not just primary care but elective surgeries and regular things they should be getting because they don't have the insurance, and they are going to show up at the emergency rooms, and then the hospitals are going to be paying for that care. That is what we are dealing with here.

These increases are going to force people across the country to make these impossible decisions.

A constituent of mine was caught off guard by a \$2,000 premium increase.

A family of four is considering downgrading their insurance plan.

A father expects that his family will owe \$16,000 more next year.

One woman currently saves more than \$450 per month because of the ACA tax credit. She is retired. She is single, so she does not have any additional income coming in. That gives her \$5,400 extra per year, and that is before you factor in—this is important for people to know because everyone is having trouble with what is going on in the insurance market right now—that is before you factor in what is expected to be a 21-percent increase in the premium.

Another constituent shared that her biggest fear is affording healthcare for her family. She said: Please keep up the fight for the ACA subsidies. Every day, the cost of just living goes up. I am worried for my family.

We know our healthcare system is far from perfect. There are many steps we should take to improve it. I could

spend the whole day giving some ideas that would be constructive.

One of the things that I finally got passed into law that I spent years working on and leading the bill—a negotiation of prices under Medicare.

Congress, before I got here, somehow locked itself into what the prices should be under Medicare, and you could see people and our worthy veterans under the VA getting much better deals on their drugs than all of the seniors in America. Why? Because the VA was negotiating prices, and Medicare was banned from negotiating.

So we opened that up on at least 10 drugs in the first year, drugs like Xarelto and Eliquis and Januvia and Jardiance—big, big drugs with big populations of people that use them—and we got that negotiation started during the last administration and were able to get some remarkable savings.

But there should be many more savings. These are supposed to be negotiated—15 more drugs and then 15 more drugs and then 15 more drugs—and I will tell you right now, I am watching to make sure that happens. But there could be a lot more we could do on the front of pharmaceuticals and many other areas of healthcare. But, instead, the least we can do right now is make sure that people aren't going to end up bankrupt—small-farm bankruptcy is at a 5-year high right now—who live in rural areas.

We are asking our colleagues to come to the table. We are asking the Republicans in the House of Representatives to return to work so that they are not outnumbered by a bunch of statues that have been sitting there for a hundred years in the Rotunda. We would like the real Representatives to come back and join us in negotiating to end the shutdown, which is what we want, but also to do something to help Americans with their healthcare.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. Mr. President, this really is a turning point for our country and a turning point in our fight to make healthcare more accessible for all Americans.

For the first time in 6 years, the government is shut down. Certainly, nobody wanted to get to this point, including me. But we are here for one reason: because MAGA Republicans shut down the government because they refuse to address the healthcare crisis they have created.

Earlier this summer, the Trump administration passed their—what we call—“Big Bad Betrayal Act,” as we call it. At a time when Americans are begging for financial relief, they were stripped of their healthcare and are faced with the loss of healthcare for 15 million people. That is right. MAGA Republicans have gutted more than a trillion dollars over the next 10 years from Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act, healthcare that literally millions of Americans rely on.

And we are not just talking years in the future. It starts this month.

At the end of this year, the Affordable Care Act's tax credits will expire, unless Republicans act now to extend them. If they don't—and they are clearly divided on this issue—premiums across the country, on average, are going to double starting next year.

As a little perspective, that means many Coloradans will pay over a thousand dollars more for healthcare in 2026 than they did in 2025.

Now, insurance companies are just starting to notify Americans about these massive cost increases. You talk about a kick in the gut.

When I was Governor, we expanded healthcare to 400,000 Coloradans with help from the ACA tax credits. We got to 96 percent coverage for Coloradans to have healthcare. MAGA Republicans want to undo that progress, and we shouldn't let that happen.

It doesn't end there. The budget bill is a centerpiece of a much broader campaign to strip healthcare coverage away from millions and millions of Americans. The moment the President took office, MAGA Republicans essentially handed him and Secretary Kennedy a free pass to attempt to dismantle our public healthcare system and to destroy much of the science-backed public health policy.

Now, what exactly did they do? Well, the President and R.F.K., Jr., fired every single member of the CDC's independent panel on vaccines and replaced them with vaccine skeptics, people who really didn't believe too much in the value of vaccines. Then, when the President's own CDC Director voiced her opposition, they fired her too.

Now, that puppet panel completely changed the COVID vaccine recommendations for Americans. Now, folks across the country are struggling to figure out whether they can get a vaccine at the pharmacy and what it is going to cost.

The President's first administration oversaw Operation Warp Speed, which developed the first COVID vaccines in what was almost a miraculously rapid timeframe. But now he is actively undermining that same science. It is astounding.

Reproductive healthcare? They are gutting that too. Again, back when I was Governor of Colorado, we made free and low-cost birth control accessible to every Coloradan. We reduced unwanted pregnancies by almost 60 percent. Now, this administration is doing everything it can to eliminate the last remaining abortion protections. They are threatening access to mifepristone, a medication that has been proven safe and effective for nearly 30 years.

On top of that, they have completely given up on things like fighting cancer, slashing hundreds of millions of dollars in cancer-related research grants. That is right. You heard me clearly—cancer. Now, we can't even agree that cancer is worth beating.

If that wasn't enough, the White House actually reached out and publicized—the President talked to pregnant women and told pregnant women not to trust their doctors, but that they can feel assured that taking Tylenol while you are pregnant would cause autism. They did this without any scientific proof. It is hard to believe that they were telling pregnant women that Tylenol was going to cause autism.

It is in many ways one large diabolical fear tactic, and it puts the health of so many Americans at risk. And we can't let it continue, which really brings us to this showdown. We are asking for this administration to negotiate and to take basic action to restore healthcare to Americans.

MAGA Republicans, I think they should be thanking us for giving them an off-ramp to undo the horrendous cuts that are going to ruin people's lives—real lives. It will cost people their lives.

So far, no one seems to be listening, but here is what is at stake if we don't hold our ground.

I, recently, a couple of weeks ago, visited a nursing home in Lakewood, CO. Now, many Americans don't know this, but Medicaid covers the cost of roughly 60 percent of residents in nursing homes across the country. At the facility I visited in Lakewood, over 90 percent of the residents are there because of Medicaid.

I sat in a circle surrounded by residents, some with disabilities, and their caregivers, all trying to understand what these cuts meant for their health, for their lives. One resident told me pointblank that Medicaid saved his life. He said he would still be living on the streets without it because the cost of his epilepsy medication was far too high.

His healthcare, his medication, and the roof over his head are now under threat with these cuts coming to Medicaid. This is a very sobering truth. If you are a single adult in Colorado, you don't even qualify for Medicaid—you will be making too much to qualify for Medicaid—if you earn more than \$1,735 a month. That is \$10 an hour. If you make more than \$10 an hour, you don't qualify for Medicaid. So you have to be working, and you have to make less than \$10 an hour. It is pretty easy to verify. And creating the redtape of bureaucracy to get at these mythical cases of abuse—it defies rational thought.

The President's “Big Ugly Bill” doesn't just put a \$1 trillion hole in healthcare, but it creates mountains of paperwork and endless reams of redtape. It creates challenges that people with disabilities and people making \$10 an hour are going to have a really hard time navigating.

And if they fill out a form incorrectly or they don't turn it in on time or they get something wrong, they will get kicked right off of healthcare. It is immoral. It is inhumane.

This is what Medicaid is for, to make sure Americans get the care they need to stay alive, to keep shelter over their heads when they need around-the-clock care. All of it is under threat.

Take one look on social media, and you will see why the White House and MAGA are trying to make this into one big joke. It is a carnival of jokes, but they can't avoid the suffering and the fear that their actions are causing.

Americans elected the President because he promised to fight for the people who slipped through the cracks. But he is turning the very ground they stand on into quicksand.

MAGA Republicans have passed a bill to take healthcare from 15 million Americans—Americans with cancer, sick kids, people living in nursing homes. With the money they saved, they gave trillion-dollar tax breaks, in many cases, to the wealthiest of Americans and to the largest of corporations.

Now, hundreds of rural hospitals and clinics are at risk of closure. Millions of Americans are going to be uninsured. Many of them have preexisting conditions, which will make them getting insurance again nearly impossible. And they are going to be faced with healthcare premiums that will be doubling, and that is for literally millions of Americans.

And we are not talking decades in the future. We are talking about next month, when these premiums go up. By November 1, Coloradans on the marketplace plans that they get from the healthcare exchange, they will be getting the terrifying news—the alert from the insurance companies—that their premiums are about to increase.

What we are being told is some Colorado families are going to see pricetags a thousand dollars a month higher than what their normal payments were.

Democrats are fighting for one thing: to protect the essential care that millions of Americans rely on every single day. It is about making sure that moms and dads, little kids, grandparents, and newborn babies don't fall through the trillion-dollar hole that MAGA has created in our healthcare system.

Let's work together. Let's reopen the government and protect the healthcare for the people of this country. We will be waiting and ready at the negotiating table.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, colleagues, I think there is a tendency in this place, but probably in the country, writ large, to compartmentalize each news cycle, to get outraged by every new contest to free speech or to the rule of law or to the power of Congress, but to really never see the full picture. Yesterday's assault on a particular democratic norm is forgotten, and we just wake up the next day to some new outrage.

And I know that when people like me start talking about creeping authoritarianism in America, a lot of my Republican colleagues tune out. They think it is hyperbole or just politics. But I think it is time for all of us—Republicans and Democrats—to really step back and come to terms with the full picture of what is happening right now in America.

I know that there are many Republicans in this Chamber who are not ready to give up on democracy, but there are a group of radicals surrounding the President who have convinced him to operationalize a plan that is designed to try to crush political opposition and dissent in this country.

When democracies die, sometimes it is in a coup; sometimes it is through violence; sometimes it is the occupation of the Parliament building; sometimes it is the cancellation of elections. But normally, that is not how democracies wither and vanish.

In countries that have lost healthy democracy, normally what happens is that, over time, the regime—the party in power—just contracts the space for dissent, for speech, for political opposition such that, while elections still happen, the opposition party can never win. The rules get rigged, essentially, so that the party in power never ever loses. That is the plan. That is what President Trump and the radicals around him are trying to do to America.

I know that many of my colleagues aren't on board for this plan, but I worry that many of my colleagues refuse to see it in its totality because they deal with one outrage at a time. They justify one assault at a time without seeing the full scope of it.

We aren't on the verge of an authoritarian takeover; we are in the middle of it. Now, it is not a fait accompli. It is not certain to be successful. But if we aren't clear-eyed about what is happening, then we have no chance to arrest it.

If my Republican colleagues don't force themselves to pull back and see the totality of what is happening to the political opposition—it is hard to see because it is not happening to you. It is happening to your colleagues. You are not in jeopardy of being arrested; my colleagues are. Your allies are not being taken down off the air; ours are.

If we don't all pull back and see this for what it is, we will wake up, and there will be a day where our democracy is gone. And so I want to talk to my colleagues today about the totality of this plan, and it really happens in five steps.

The first step is to convert the justice system into a political witch hunt operation. Every totalitarian relies on the justice system to punish dissent, but also to immunize illegality for loyalists. That is the deal you get in a totalitarian state: If you speak out against the government, well, then the legal system comes crashing down on

you. But if you are loyal to the government, then you can get away with crimes.

We are seeing this at scale right now. The indictment of James Comey for no crime—not a single prosecutor in that office in Virginia would sign the indictment—not a single one—until President Trump sent his personal lawyer to take over that office because only she would sign the indictment.

We see this in the arrests that are being readied for at least one Democratic Senator, for the Soros family, for the attorney general of New York—for behavior that is not criminal; for behavior that apparently, reportedly, has been engaged in by plenty of other people.

But you also see it in the way that it ultimately plays out in a very quiet way. The goal here is not to arrest everybody that opposes Donald Trump. The idea here is to just put enough fear into the ranks of those who might speak truth to power that they stay quiet, and it is undoubtedly happening. There are undoubtedly people in this country who see what is being threatened to Senator SCHIFF, what has happened to James Comey, and they have just decided to remain quiet. This is a tried and true tactic of a totalitarian state, is that they threaten people with arrests if they speak up, and lots of people just decide not to speak up in the first place.

But what also happens is that if you are loyal to the regime, you get away with crimes. See what happened to the mayor of New York Eric Adams. He allegedly had committed a crime. He had committed significant corruption but was exonerated by President Trump only after the mayor pledged his political loyalty to the President. In fact, one of the President's representatives and the mayor went on television to essentially publicly do the handshake—loyalty from the mayor to the President and exonerated of corruption from the government to the mayor. This is how totalitarian regimes control speech: They punish, through the legal system, dissent. They immunize corruption amongst those who are loyal.

The second part of the plan is to eliminate free press and replace it with state-run media. Now, I don't know that I would go so far to say we have state-run media in the United States yet, but there is an attempt underway to try to use the vast regulatory powers of the administration to censor media. And, again, the administration isn't hiding it. They are going on TV and celebrating the fact that, in the latest instance, they threatened to pull the licenses of TV stations that didn't take off the air one of the President's loudest critics.

But we also see it through the consolidation of media into the hands of allies of the President. One family that has just taken control of a major media group that owns, amongst other properties, CBS is looking to also take

control of CNN and may have an ownership stake and a control stake in TikTok. That family has shown a willingness to censor content, pulling Stephen Colbert off the air and to put in place, essentially, Trump-approved censors for their future news content.

So you get to state-run media not necessarily through the state owning and operating media, but by the state using its regulatory powers—its control of licenses and mergers—to make clear to the billionaire class that they can own media, that they can make a lot of money off of media, but only if it propagates Trump's narrative and suppresses criticism. It is happening right now. We are watching it happen.

The third step in the plan is to militarize law enforcement. The deployment of the military to Chicago and to Portland, to Los Angeles, is illegal. It is illegal. But it is designed to try to, once again, quell dissent and protest. This isn't about public safety. This is about political intimidation.

And you are just naive if you think that folks aren't going to be a little bit less interested in showing up at a protest if they are worried about getting roughed up by law enforcement. You are naive to think that there isn't an impact on speech when the military is patrolling your streets. The signal that is being sent is that, if you speak up in opposition to this President, you are going to be greeted by troop deployments and tear gas and military helicopters.

The fourth step in this plan is seizing control of government spending and taxation, and here is where I fail to understand why there isn't bipartisan agreement, why we don't join hands. Our Founding Fathers saw what the British King did: using taxation and spending in order to compel loyalty to Crown, in order to punish the colonists when they rose up in defense of their rights. And so when they wrote the Constitution, they deliberately put the spending and taxation powers not in the hands of the Executive but in the hands of Congress, where every faction is represented; thus, this body is in a position to broadly protect the rights of all people.

Trump is seizing spending power from us, canceling grants unilaterally—most recently brazenly deciding to refuse to spend money only in the States represented by Democrats. The day after the shutdown began, they announced that they were, first, suspending billions of dollars' worth of projects in just one city, New York City—not coincidentally represented by the Democratic leaders in the House and the Senate.

And then, hours after, they released a list of canceled energy projects. They listed the States that they were being canceled in. Every single one of those States was represented by two Democratic Senators.

Everybody knew what was happening. It was an effort to use the spending power, seized by the Execu-

tive, to punish—to punish—representatives of the people who oppose the President politically.

And then the fifth part of the plan is to rig the rules when the rules don't work for you. This is happening in the way that President Trump is going State by State and demanding that congressional lines be redrawn in the middle of a 10-year cycle in which, traditionally, we leave lines as they are. Why? He has, again, been totally honest and transparent about it. He just wants more Republicans elected. Even if the majority of people in a particular State favor Democrats, he wants the lines drawn in a way that would elect more Republicans to Congress. Now, in this case, it has, of course, forced Democratic States to do the same, but it was Donald Trump who started this cycle of changing the rules in order to make sure that his party stays in power and that he stays in power no matter how unpopular he gets.

You see the same thing happening with respect to the control of information. Totalitarian states can't accept truth. They can't accept truth, so they try to destroy truth. Well, that is what Donald Trump is doing by banning reporters from the White House who don't toe the Trump or MAGA line. That is what they are doing in saying to reporters at the Department of Defense that you can't report on military operations unless you are given preapproval. That is what happened to the head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. When the labor statistics showed that the economy wasn't good, that guy got fired and was replaced by somebody who would issue fake numbers that made the economy look better.

You convert the justice system so that it pursues your political enemies and exonerates your political loyalists for crimes. You eliminate the free press, and you replace it with state-run or state-influenced media. You militarize law enforcement. You seize control of government spending and taxation. You rig the rules of democracy in your favor.

You can't see the indictment of Comey, the cancellation of Kimmel, and the troops in Chicago as different events. They are all part of the same story. They are all part of a plan—a well-thought-out plan—to try to destroy American democracy and create a new set of rules that will allow Trump and his allies to rule forever.

I know this sounds extreme. It is. But, if you connect the dots, if you allow yourself to see the whole story—the totality—of this story, you will see the grave danger that we are in. I know that it is often easiest for all of us, but probably especially for supporters of the President who still support democracy, to just assume the best, instead of assuming the worst, or to just kind of close the door and batten down the hatches until the storm leaves town.

But think about how we will feel if this 250-year democratic experiment

disappears on our watch and we didn't do all we could as a body and as a citizenry simply because we didn't want to face the hard reality. The authoritarian takeover isn't coming; it is here. We are in the middle of it, but it is not too late for everybody to see it and for us to stop it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, for the first time since her confirmation earlier this year, Attorney General Pam Bondi appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee to answer for her tenure in the Office of the Attorney General for this calendar year.

From the outset, the Attorney General was not, apparently, happy to be there. She ducked many questions, and I think she believed we wouldn't notice. We did.

In her opening statement, the Attorney General said that "playing politics with law enforcement powers," as she claims previous administrations have, "will go down as a historic betrayal of public trust" and that "this is the kind of conduct that shatters the American people's faith in our law enforcement system."

That is interesting coming from an Attorney General who, over the course of 8 very long months, has presided over exactly such a betrayal of public trust. The Attorney General has systematically weaponized the Department of Justice, turning it into a shield to protect President Trump and his allies and a sword to attack his opponents. She has made clear that her loyalties lie first and foremost with the President, not with the Constitution. In doing so, she effectively shut down justice at the Department of Justice, even before the party controlling the White House, Senate, and the House of Representatives shut down the government.

Last week, on the Senate floor and in the wake of the Federal indictment against former FBI Director James Comey that was ordered by President Trump expressly, I warned of the dangers posed by weaponizing the Justice Department in a political fashion.

A President, enabled by people like this Attorney General, who can warp the Department of Justice and FBI into a personal police force to target his enemies, can turn it against ordinary Americans too. Unfortunately, the city of Chicago, which I am proud to represent, is feeling that today.

In an especially egregious instance in the city's South Shore neighborhood last Tuesday night, hundreds of armed Federal agents rappelled from Black Hawk helicopters and swarmed an apartment building in the South Shore area. This made-for-movies entrance was into a building, which apparently the ICE agents knew little about the occupants.

ICE rampaged through the building, breaking down doors, rousting people

out of bed, rounding up the residents without cause, detaining many with zip ties, including women and children. When one of the ICE agents was confronted with the children, he said, "F— them kids."

Detaining not just immigrants but U.S. citizens for hours on end, with no justification, isn't fighting crime; it is cruel, and it is un-American.

Attorney General Bondi's Justice Department has defended this dubious legal basis for Federal deployments to Illinois and diverted Department of Justice personnel and their components to assist with these efforts. So, today, many of us pushed her for answers.

I asked her if anyone at the White House consulted her about the National Guard deployments to Chicago and other cities. She refused to answer that she even had a conversation with the White House about their justification for sending hundreds of National Guard troops into the city of Chicago.

I asked what secret the Attorney General was trying to hide from the American people who deserve to know the legitimate legal rationale for deploying American military to our cities. She responded by attempting to blame Democrats for the Republican shutdown and attacking me for not "loving Chicago as much as [I] hate President Trump." That was a quote.

I have been a member of the Judiciary Committee for 20 years-plus. Never have I encountered a witness from any other administration of either political party responding to legitimate questions with personal attacks. She had a personal attack crafted for each one of the Senators and thought she was getting the best of us. But that kind of unserious response is what we have come to expect from Trump administration officials whose priority is loyalty, not the rule of law.

If DOJ is serious about reducing crimes, then they would work in conjunction with State and local leaders to implement evidence-based policies that do drive down violence. The fact is, this administration actually cares more about spreading fear into the hearts of our communities and catering to the vengeful whims of President Trump and Stephen Miller. It is political theater with an immense human pricetag.

I also asked the Attorney General about the Epstein client list. She wouldn't touch it. She said in February, publicly, that the client list was "sitting on her desk." Well, it is October, and the American people are still waiting for answers on this. She refused today to provide any information about this list, and we know why.

A few months ago, a credible whistleblower told my office that FBI agents were instructed to flag any mention of President Trump from the files of Mr. Epstein. If true, that is not law enforcement; that is political protection. So I pressed her again today for more information to be made public. She refused.

Mr. President, what we saw in today's hearing was an Attorney General unwilling and maybe unable to defend what is happening in her Department. Whether it is the Epstein files, Chicago immigration raids, sweetheart deals for Trump allies, or the mass purging of career law enforcement, her silence tells a story.

Saying "I'm not going to discuss this with you" may have worked today, but one day, she will need to answer for her conduct in this role, and she will need to defend her record—one that saw the dismantling of the Department of Justice for political purposes on her watch.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, the story of America is the story of a people that looked upon the West and saw promise. Where others saw wilderness, Americans saw a future. They dammed rivers that had flowed ungoverned since creation, mined mountains that had defied the reach of man, and turned harsh plains into fields that would feed a continent. From that audacity came a republic that could feed itself, power itself, and then, when tested, defend itself.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act—known commonly as FLPMA—enshrined this principle of multiple use and sustained yield for Federal lands. It codified the promise that the land belongs to the people and ought therefore to serve them. Its promise was plural: energy, grazing, recreation, timber conservation—each coexisting with the others in balanced and productive harmony. The law does not permit Federal officials to choose one purpose to the exclusion of all the rest. It demands balance, and it demands use in particular.

But the Biden administration's clerics of the green new scam disregarded that agreement struck nearly half a century ago. They preferred a museum to a nation, an America under glass, admired but untouchable. Under their edicts, vast stretches of land—millions upon millions of acres—have been sealed off from the citizens who built their livelihoods upon them. In Montana, North Dakota, and Alaska, communities that have mined, grazed, and worked for generations are now treated as trespassers in their own story. Their supposed crime is self-reliance—hardly something we should be seeking to punish. Their punishment is unemployment.

The Senate now faces three resolutions that would help restore the balance. Each disapproves of a Biden administration decision that violated the multiple-use mandate of FLPMA and locked away public land from productive Americans, contrary to FLPMA's promise.

In Montana, for example, the Miles City Resource Management Plan barred future coal leasing across nearly

2 million acres, erasing access to 338 million tons of clean domestic coal. In North Dakota, more than 4 million acres of Federal coal reserves were closed—nearly 99 percent of the reserves available in that State. In Alaska, the Central Yukon Resource Management Plan imposed new restrictions on 56 million acres of land, including millions of acres newly labeled as "areas of critical environmental concern"—one of the great trick plays used by the left in order to bring about de facto wilderness or de facto monument designations without actually having to go through the process that the relevant laws would require.

Joe Biden's bureaucrats wrote over the voices of those who actually live near that land and live with the consequences of these bad decisions, and the results were predictable: higher costs, lost jobs, and deeper dependence on nations that, to put it mildly, do not wish us well.

Every shuttered mine, every idled rig is an act of self-imposed amnesia—a willful type of forgetting of what made America both prosperous and free.

Now, luckily, President Trump and Secretary Burgum are correcting that course. They are returning resource management plans to their proper role under the law; that is, to manage the land responsibly and keep it working for the American people, the intended beneficiaries of those lands.

The Congressional Review Act allows us, mercifully, to repeal these unlawful plans and restore the statutory balance Congress intended and Congress, in fact, created with the Congressional Review Act.

When these resolutions of disapproval take effect, after they have been passed and signed into law by President Trump, the Bureau of Land Management will still have the necessary environmental analysis to issue new resource management plans that are consistent with the law and the clear intent of Congress—plans that open access where it was previously closed, respect local voices that were previously ignored, and bring Federal management back within its legal bounds. That is how the process should work. That is how it is supposed to work. Under the law as written, it is how it does work.

It is, at least, how it always should have worked but didn't work under the Biden administration, like so many other things.

Now Republicans are defending the right of a free people here—the right of a free people to power their own future, to determine their own course. Democrats are still genuflecting before the altar of the green new scam, clinging to their faith and their false hope that if only Americans grow poorer, the planet will somehow grow purer.

In that same spirit of self-righteous delusion, this week, Democrats are yet again bringing forth a measure to denounce President Trump for declaring an energy emergency. It is a gesture so

unserious, it would be comical if it weren't so dangerous.

At the very moment when the world is entering an energy race that will decide who commands the engines of artificial intelligence and all that goes along with it, who manufactures the tools of war, and who will feed and defend their people, Democrats have instead chosen to strike a pose. They are congratulating themselves for denying the existence of the fire while standing in the smoke and holding the matches. Theirs is the politics of aesthetic virtue: better to be cold and appear righteous than to be warm and competent.

But the American people fortunately are not fools. They understand that we can no longer afford to pad the pockets of Democratic allies propping up unreliable industries that cannot—no matter how hard Democrats wish it were otherwise—cannot keep the lights on, while punishing the workers and the communities that can and will if only we will allow it without undue interference from the U.S. Government.

These resolutions to overturn the reckless Biden-era land plans are part of that larger defense. They would restore lawful management of public lands, honor the voices of those who live nearest to them and are therefore most directly affected by them, and keep faith with the law Congress enacted.

Nations that lose their memory soon lose their nerve. The same spirit that split the Rockies and bridged the Golden Gate cannot be reconciled with a bureaucracy that measures virtue by paralysis.

America, in short, was not built by those who made idols of the land but by those who worked it and in so doing, ennobled both themselves and it.

We cannot continue to bow to the Ashtoreth of climate alarmism and bow to the Moloch of ecoterrorism and pretend that is going to work out well for America. Americans know better.

Rewinding these management plans will not desecrate the environment—far from it—but they will deliver it from an orthodoxy that mistakes idleness for piety, reminding us that liberty, like the land itself, withers when left untouched.

It is therefore with all the energy and enthusiasm that I am capable of communicating that I invite my colleagues to do the right thing—to vote for these resolutions of disapproval and to right the gross wrong that has been inflicted on the American people, particularly Americans in and around the States affected by these ill-designed, ill-conceived resource management plans.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to proceed to my joint resolution to congressionally disapprove and officially roll back President Biden's anti-coal rule in Montana.

H.J. Res. 104 is supported by the entire Montana delegation, and I want to

thank Congressman DOWNING and Congressman ZINKE for leading this resolution in the House and Senator SHEEHY for joining me in the Senate.

This resolution is supported by many Montanans, starting with the Governor of Montana, Governor Gianforte; the mayor of Colstrip, MT; the Montana Coal Council; the Montana electric co-ops; Northwestern Energy; local counties; both of the affected coal mines; and many, many more and, I will tell you, many, many more coal miners.

I want to explain quickly what we are doing here today. Today, we will take the first step in overturning the Miles City Resource Management Plan Amendment that prohibits—prohibits—any new coal leasing in Eastern Montana.

Let me be very clear. This resolution only overturns the anti-coal amendment that was issued by the Biden administration after the last election, in the final days of their term.

None of the actions taken today affect the underlying Miles City Resource Management Plan or how the BLM manages recreation, conservation, and other energy developments in the State. Future coal development will be managed under the existing resource management plan, as it had for years before Biden slipped in, at the last hour, this amendment.

Now, why is this important to Montana? The Biden amendment prohibits all new coal leasing across all of Eastern Montana.

Eastern Montana and Wyoming are home to the Powder River Basin. These are the largest coal reserves in the United States.

Many who are watching, when you think about Montana, you think about our amazing fly-fishing streams, our national parks, our beautiful mountains, our wilderness areas, the tremendous hunting and hiking opportunities we provide, but many don't know that Montana has more recoverable coal than any State in the United States.

Think about this: The Biden administration prohibited new coal development in America's largest coal reserve.

BLM's resource management plans are meant to be a bipartisan process, taking in feedback from people on the ground and implementing the multiple-use mission of the BLM, but, sadly, the Biden administration tried to pull a fast one. They took this process, flipped it on its face, and they disregarded the voices of Montana.

Well, I can tell you here this afternoon, the voices of Montana are speaking loudly with the united Montana delegation both here in Washington as well as Montanans back home in the State, and we are going to right that wrong today. We are going to give Montana a voice in the process.

Overturning this partisan rule will grow Montana energy jobs and help our rural communities. In fact, according to the Montana Coal Council, coal supports nearly 900 high-paying jobs in

Montana and has provided \$2.7 billion in Federal, State, private, and Tribal royalties.

In a letter from Montana's Governor Greg Gianforte, he states that this Biden rule "amounts to a loss of \$4.3 billion in future revenue to the State trust land beneficiaries, which includes K-12 public education."

This is a monumental moment for the State of Montana. I am thrilled this is being considered today on the floor of the U.S. Senate, and I urge my colleagues to support Montana jobs, Montana communities, reliable and low-cost energy, and to vote yes on today's motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, it be in order for the majority leader or his designee to make motions to proceed to H.J. Res. 104, H.J. Res. 105, and H.J. Res. 106, respectively, if the Senate companion measure has been discharged from committee, and for Senator SCHIFF or his designee to make a motion to discharge S.J. Res. 83.

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

VOTE ON EN BLOC NOMINATIONS

Mr. COTTON. I know of no further debate on the nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the en bloc nominations provided under the provisions of S. Res. 412?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 547 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
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
Gallago	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	

NOT VOTING—2

Curtis	Sheehy
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The en bloc nominations were confirmed as follows:

Calendar Number 62: Paul Atkins, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2031 (Reappointment).

Calendar Number 86: James Baehr, of Louisiana, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs

Calendar Number 92: Patrick David Davis, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General

Calendar Number 126: Leah Campos, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Dominican Republic

Calendar Number 127: Brandon Judd, of Idaho, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Chile

Calendar Number 128: Joseph Popolo, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Calendar Number 143: Catherine Jereza, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Electricity)

Calendar Number 155: Ned Mamula, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey

Calendar Number 158: David Fink, of New Hampshire, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration

Calendar Number 159: Pierre Gentin, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce

Calendar Number 160: David Fogel, of Connecticut, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service

Calendar Number 163: Devon Westhill, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture

Calendar Number 164: Kirsten Baesler, of North Dakota, to be Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education

Calendar Number 168: Wayne Palmer, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health

Calendar Number 169: Julie Hocker, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor

Calendar Number 170: Marco Rajkovich, Jr., of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety

and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2030 (Reappointment)

Calendar Number 178: John Busterud, of California, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency

Calendar Number 181: Stanley Woodward, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be Associate Attorney General

Calendar Number 196: Janet Dhillon, of Virginia, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation for a term of five years

Calendar Number 252: David Keeling, of Kentucky, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor

Calendar Number 253: Kimberly Richey, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Education

Calendar Number 255: Jonathan Berry, of Maryland, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor

Calendar Number 256: Andrew Rogers, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor

Calendar Number 265: Marc Andersen, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army

Calendar Number 268: James Woodruff II, of Florida, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2032

Calendar Number 270: Kevin Rhodes, of Florida, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy

Calendar Number 272: Usha-Maria Turner, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

Calendar Number 284: John Dever, of Illinois, to be General Counsel of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence

Calendar Number 299: Joseph Barloon, of Maryland, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Geneva Office), with the rank of Ambassador

Calendar Number 300: Brian Morrissey, Jr., of Virginia, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury

Calendar Number 304: Craig Trainor, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Calendar Number 306: Francis Brooke, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury

Calendar Number 307: David Peters, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce

Calendar Number 310: Mary Riley, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education

Calendar Number 311: Brian Christine, of Alabama, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services

Calendar Number 312: Jonathan Snare, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Occupational Safety and Health

Review Commission for a term expiring April 27, 2029

Calendar Number 313: David Brian Castillo, of Washington, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Labor

Calendar Number 314: David Barker, of Iowa, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Department of Education

Calendar Number 315: Brittany Panuccio, of Florida, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2029

Calendar Number 323: Michael Boren, of Idaho, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment

Calendar Number 341: Audrey Robertson, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy)

Calendar Number 342: Lanny Erdos, of Ohio, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Calendar Number 345: Taylor Jordan, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce

Calendar Number 347: Derek Barrs, of Florida, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Calendar Number 348: Michael Rutherdorf, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation (New Position)

Calendar Number 349: Gregory Zerzan, of Texas, to be General Counsel of the Department of Transportation

Calendar Number 355: Christopher Fox, of Virginia, to be Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, Office of the Director of National Intelligence

Calendar Number 357: Alex Adams, of Idaho, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, Department of Health and Human Services

Calendar Number 358: Jonathan McKernan, of Tennessee, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury

Calendar Number 359: Macon Hughes, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense

Calendar Number 360: Philip Weinberg, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force

Calendar Number 361: Timothy John Walsh, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management)

Calendar Number 363: Gustav Chiarello III, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services

Calendar Number 364: Michael Stuart, of West Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services

Calendar Number 367: William Kirkland, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior

Calendar Number 368: Laura Swett, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2030

Calendar Number 369: David LaCerte, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2026

Calendar Number 374: Arch Capito, of West Virginia, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia for the term of four years

Calendar Number 375: David Dunavant, of Tennessee, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee for the term of four years

Calendar Number 376: Matthew Harvey, of West Virginia, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia for the term of four years

Calendar Number 377: John Heekin, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida for the term of four years

Calendar Number 378: Leif Olson, of Iowa, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa for the term of four years

Calendar Number 379: Adam Sleeper, of the Virgin Islands, to be United States Attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands for the term of four years

Calendar Number 380: David Toepfer, of Ohio, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio for the term of four years

Calendar Number 381: Kurt Alme, of Montana, to be United States Attorney for the District of Montana, for the term of four years

Calendar Number 382: Nicholas Chase, of North Dakota, to be United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota for the term of four years

Calendar Number 383: Bart McKay Davis, of Idaho, to be United States Attorney for the District of Idaho for the term of four years

Calendar Number 384: David Metcalf, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years

Calendar Number 385: Lesley Murphy, of Nebraska, to be United States Attorney for the District of Nebraska for the term of four years

Calendar Number 386: Ronald A. Parsons, Jr., of South Dakota, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Dakota for the term of four years

Calendar Number 387: Kurt Wall, of Louisiana, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana for the term of four years

Calendar Number 388: David Charles Waterman, of Iowa, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa for the term of four years

Calendar Number 389: Daniel Rosen, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota for the term of four years

Calendar Number 391: Somers Farkas, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Malta

Calendar Number 392: Nicole McGraw, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Croatia

Calendar Number 393: Leandro Rizzuto, of Florida, to be Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Organization of American States, with the rank of Ambassador

Calendar Number 394: Herschel Walker, of Georgia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

Calendar Number 395: Stacey Feinberg, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Calendar Number 396: Kenneth Howery, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Denmark

Calendar Number 397: Richard Buchan III, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Morocco

Calendar Number 398: Bill Bazzi, of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Tunisia

Calendar Number 399: Lynda Blanchard, of Alabama, to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, with the rank of Ambassador.

Calendar Number 400: Howard Brodie, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Finland

Calendar Number 401: Arthur Fisher, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Austria

Calendar Number 402: Melinda Hildebrand, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Costa Rica

Calendar Number 403: Michel Issa, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Lebanese Republic

Calendar Number 404: Nicholas Merrick, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Czech Republic

Calendar Number 405: Roman Pipko, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Estonia

Calendar Number 406: Thomas Rose, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Poland

Calendar Number 407: William White, of New York, to be Ambassador Ex-

traordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Belgium

Calendar Number 408: John Giordano, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Namibia

Calendar Number 409: Anjani Sinha, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Singapore

Calendar Number 411: Sean O'Neill, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Thailand

Calendar Number 412: Julie Stufft, of Ohio, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kazakhstan

Calendar Number 413: Dan Negrea, of Connecticut, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations

Calendar Number 414: Sergio Gor, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of India

Calendar Number 415: Stephanie Hallett, of Florida, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Bahrain

Calendar Number 416: James Holtsnider, of Iowa, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Calendar Number 417: Jacob Helberg, of Florida, to be an Under Secretary of State (Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment)

Calendar Number 418: Benjamin Black, of New York, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation

Calendar Number 419: Thomas DiNanno, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security

Calendar Number 420: Paul Kapur, of California, to be Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs

Calendar Number 423: Sarah Rogers, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy

Calendar Number 424: Michael DeSombre, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (East Asian and Pacific Affairs)

Calendar Number 426: Riley Barnes, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary

of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor

Calendar Number 427: Todd Wilcox, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Diplomatic Security)

Calendar Number 428: Neil Jacobs, of North Carolina, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

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

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 and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

NOMINATIONS EN BLOC

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, while I voted nay on S. Res. 412, which calls for an up or down vote on 108 nominations, en bloc, I would have voted yea on the following nominations if I had the opportunity to vote on each nomination separately:

1. Calendar Number 126: Leah Campos, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Dominican Republic.

2. Calendar Number 128: Joseph Popolo, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

3. Calendar Number 158: David Fink, of New Hampshire, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.

4. Calendar Number 265: Marc Andersen, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

5. Calendar Number 355: Christopher Fox, of Virginia, to be Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

6. Calendar Number 359: Macon Hughes, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

7. Calendar Number 360: Philip Weinberg, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

8. Calendar Number 374: Arch Capito, of West Virginia, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia for the term of 4 years.

9. Calendar Number 375: David Dunavant, of Tennessee, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee for the term of 4 years.

10. Calendar Number 376: Matthew Harvey, of West Virginia, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia for the term of 4 years.

11. Calendar Number 379: Adam Sleeper, of the Virgin Islands, to be United States Attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands for the term of 4 years.

12. Calendar Number 380: David Toepfer, of Ohio, to be United States Attorney for the

Northern District of Ohio for the term of 4 years.

13. Calendar Number 381: Kurt Alme, of Montana, to be United States Attorney for the District of Montana, for the term of 4 years.

14. Calendar Number 382: Nicholas Chase, of North Dakota, to be United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota for the term of 4 years.

15. Calendar Number 383: Bart McKay Davis, of Idaho, to be United States Attorney for the District of Idaho for the term of 4 years.

16. Calendar Number 384: David Metcalf, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for the term of 4 years.

17. Calendar Number 385: Lesley Murphy, of Nebraska, to be United States Attorney for the District of Nebraska for the term of 4 years.

18. Calendar Number 386: Ronald A. Parsons, Jr., of South Dakota, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Dakota for the term of 4 years.

19. Calendar Number 387: Kurt Wall, of Louisiana, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana for the term of 4 years.

20. Calendar Number 388: David Charles Waterman, of Iowa, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa for the term of 4 years.

21. Calendar Number 389: Daniel Rosen, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota for the term of 4 years.

22. Calendar Number 391: Somers Farkas, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Malta.

23. Calendar Number 392: Nicole McGraw, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Croatia.

24. Calendar Number 395: Stacey Feinberg, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

25. Calendar Number 396: Kenneth Howery, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Denmark.

26. Calendar Number 397: Richard Buchan III, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Morocco.

27. Calendar Number 398: Bill Bazzi, of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Tunisia.

28. Calendar Number 400: Howard Brodie, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Finland.

29. Calendar Number 401: Arthur Fisher, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Austria.

30. Calendar Number 402: Melinda Hildebrand, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Costa Rica.

31. Calendar Number 403: Michel Issa, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Lebanese Republic.

32. Calendar Number 404: Nicholas Merrick, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Czech Republic.

33. Calendar Number 405: Roman Pipko, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Estonia.

34. Calendar Number 408: John Giordano, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Namibia.

35. Calendar Number 411: Sean O'Neill, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Thailand.

36. Calendar Number 412: Julie Stuftt, of Ohio, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kazakhstan.

37. Calendar Number 413: Dan Negrea, of Connecticut, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

38. Calendar Number 414: Sergio Gor, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of India.

39. Calendar Number 415: Stephanie Hallett, of Florida, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

40. Calendar Number 416: James Holtsnider, of Iowa, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

41. Calendar Number 417: Jacob Helberg, of Florida, to be an Under Secretary of State (Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment).

42. Calendar Number 418: Benjamin Black, of New York, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation.

43. Calendar Number 419: Thomas DiNanno, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

44. Calendar Number 424: Michael DeSombre, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (East Asian and Pacific Affairs).

45. Calendar Number 427: Todd Wilcox, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Diplomatic Security).

46. Calendar Number 428: Neil Jacobs, of North Carolina, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, on October 6, 2025, I was unavoidably absent for the following rollcall votes. My absence was due to an unavoidable conflict.

For rollcall vote No. 544, On the Cloture Motion (Motion to Invoke Cloture: Motion to Proceed to S. 2882), a bill making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, I would have voted yea.

For rollcall vote No. 545, On the Cloture Motion (Motion to Invoke Cloture: Motion to Proceed to H.R. 5371), a bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes I would have voted nay.

For rollcall vote No. 546, On the Cloture Motion (Motion to Invoke Cloture: En bloc Nominations Provided for

Under the Provisions of S. Res. 412), I would have voted nay.

TEXAS MEASLES OUTBREAK

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Washington Examiner, Aug. 26, 2025]

RFK JR.'S LEADERSHIP BROUGHT AN END TO THE TEXAS MEASLES OUTBREAK

(By Rep. Jodey Arrington)

The world has witnessed a concerning surge of measles cases. Europe reported 127,350 cases in 2024—the highest number recorded on the continent since 1997. In Canada, 4,586 cases have been documented in 2024 and 2025, while Mexico has confirmed 3,911 cases to date.

And, on Jan. 17, 2025, just three days before President Donald Trump assumed office, the Houston Health Department reported two confirmed measles cases, marking the first case in Texas since 2023. While left-leaning media outlets were quick to criticize the Trump administration over these cases in Texas, they remained largely silent about the 383% nationwide increase in measles cases between 2023 and 2024 during the Biden administration, including Illinois's largest measles outbreak since 1990, which was linked to a migrant shelter in Chicago.

In stark contrast, the Trump administration's response to the measles outbreak, led by Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., met the moment. It was prompt, aggressive, and wholly effective. And, this week, thanks to the secretary's leadership and tireless work, Texas health officials declared the outbreak over.

Kennedy's approach was not a top-down, government-knows-best strategy where the feds swoop in and usurp the direction from state and local leaders. Instead, he understands what too many people in Washington forget: The most effective solutions come from those closest to the problem and most accountable to the people. It's with this understanding that he listened first, acted decisively, and never left our community's side.

He spoke to leaders at every level public health officials, healthcare providers, and the community members affected—and not just once, but daily. I am convinced his personal commitment and sense of urgency enabled him to break through the bureaucracy, swiftly marshal the necessary resources, and successfully end the outbreak.

The secretary used his platform to raise awareness for the measles outbreak, publicly urging people to take it seriously and emphasizing the critical role of the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine.

He directed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response to work hand-in-glove with Texas health officials to deploy rapid response teams, give comprehensive support, and provide 7,000 doses of the MMR vaccine and therapeutic medications to our local communities. He made sure local health authorities, providers, and families had the tools and support they needed, providing prevention, guidance and establishing a local response network laboratory at Texas Tech to expedite measles testing in West Texas.

And he engaged the broader public as well. The CDC accelerated its public reporting of measles cases and outbreaks so that anyone who visited the CDC's website could see hot

spots of infection. It also posted a "Be Ready for Measles" toolkit, which provided outbreak response tools and communication materials for clinicians and the public health community. What's more, the CDC held biweekly national calls to share best practices on managing the outbreak for providers and health departments.

But beyond the policies, beyond the programs, what defined the secretary's leadership during the measles outbreak was his personal engagement and genuine compassion for the families affected. He personally visited the small town of Seminole, Texas, and he didn't just give its residents resources. He gave them what they needed most: the confidence and hope that their nation's healthcare system and their country would not abandon them. He developed real, meaningful connections with West Texas families—comforting them, mourning alongside them, and giving them the encouragement they needed to persist in the face of this crisis.

This is what good leadership looks like. Not command and control, but compassion and service. Not someone who thinks they have all the answers, but someone who seeks first to understand.

I have never witnessed a leader at his level, a man who leads an entire national agency, show such humility, humanity, and heart. Kennedy is not a conventional Cabinet secretary, and thank God. Because of his unique leadership, our families are safer, our communities are stronger, and, together, we are making America healthy again.

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITIONS

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 61, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Miles City Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment" and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

John Thune, Steve Daines, Thom Tillis, Tim Sheehy, John Barrasso, John Boozman, James C. Justice, Tommy Tuberville, Tom Cotton, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Bernie Moreno, Eric Schmitt, Mike Rounds, John Hoeven, Kevin Cramer, Cynthia M. Lummis, Mike Crapo, Jerry Moran, Deb Fischer, Roger Marshall, Jon Husted, Ted Cruz, Ron Johnson, John Kennedy, Mike Lee, Lindsey Graham, David McCormick, Ashley Moody, John Cornyn, Tim Scott (SC).

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 62, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "North Dakota Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan" and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

John Thune, Steve Daines, Kevin Cramer, Tom Cotton, Ron Johnson,

Jim Banks, Ted Cruz, Eric Schmitt, Markwayne Mullin, Bill Cassidy, Pete Ricketts, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven, James Lankford, James E. Risch, Tommy Tuberville, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Jon Husted, Mike Crapo, Cynthia M. Lummis, Ashley Moody, Katie Boyd Britt, Shelley Moore Capito, Bernie Moreno, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Chuck Grassley, Marsha Blackburn, Roger Marshall, David McCormick.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 63, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Central Yukon Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan" and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

John Thune, Steve Daines, Kevin Cramer, Tom Cotton, Ron Johnson, Jim Banks, Ted Cruz, Eric Schmitt, Markwayne Mullin, Bill Cassidy, Pete Ricketts, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven, James Lankford, James E. Risch, Tommy Tuberville, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Jon Husted, Mike Crapo, Cynthia M. Lummis, Ashley Moody, Katie Boyd Britt, Shelley Moore Capito, Bernie Moreno, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Chuck Grassley, Marsha Blackburn, Roger Marshall, David McCormick, Dan Sullivan, Lisa Murkowski.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolutions were discharged from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 61. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Miles City Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment".

S.J. Res. 62. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "North Dakota Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan".

S.J. Res. 63. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Central Yukon Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan".

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2983. A bill to reauthorize the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015.

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-1965. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Guam; Guam Environmental Protection Agency; New Source Review" (FRL No. 12613-02-R9) received during the adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1966. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hawaii: Amendment to Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference" (FRL No. 12586-02-R9) received during the adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1967. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "FY 2024 Superfund Five-Year Review Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1968. A communication from the Senior Attorney Advisor, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rescinding Regulations Regarding Management Systems Pertaining to the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Refuge Roads Program" (RIN2125-AG23) received during the adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1969. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Irish Potatoes Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon; Increased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-SC-24-0042) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1970. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Imported Walnuts; Suspension of Handling Regulations" (Docket No. AMS-SC-24-0053) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1971. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) 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 in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1972. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of lieutenant general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777a; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1973. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, transmitting the report of 10 officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade

of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1974. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rescission of Expired 1-Year Grace Period for Data Extensions; Corrections" (RIN1010-AE34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KANE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KIM, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2977. A bill to amend chapter 77 of title 5, United States Code, to ensure timely rulings by the Merit Systems Protection Board on appeals by Federal employees and applicants for employment; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BRITT, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2978. A bill to provide for the designation of the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 2979. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a confidential, voluntary information-sharing system to encourage the sharing of pipeline safety data and information in a nonpunitive context in order to improve the safety of pipeline facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 2980. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to study certain composite material pipelines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 2981. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of prosthetic and rehabilitative items and services by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KANE, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2982. A bill to suspend the enforcement of certain civil liabilities of Federal employees and contractors during a lapse in appropriations, or during a breach of the statutory debt limit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 2983. A bill to reauthorize the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015; read the first time.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. KANE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. WARREN):

S.J. Res. 88. A joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared to impose global tariffs; 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 Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COTTON, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BANKS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. LEE, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. RICKETTS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. HUSTED, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. DAINES, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. MORENO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mrs. MOODY):

S. Res. 438. A resolution condemning the brutal Hamas-led terrorist attack on the State of Israel on October 7, 2023, and supporting an outcome that ensures the forever survival of Israel, the complete denial of Hamas's ability to reconstitute in the region, and the release of all the remaining hostages from the Gaza Strip, including two United States citizens; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WELCH:

S. Res. 439. A resolution condemning antisemitic hatred on the anniversary of the terrorist attacks of October 7, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mrs. MOODY):

S. Res. 440. A resolution designating September 2025 as "National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 441. A resolution designating the week of October 5, 2025, through October 11, 2025, as "National Community Policing Week"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 107

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 107, a bill to amend the Lumber Act of 1956.

S. 142

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 142, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to wildland firefighters in recognition of their strength, resiliency, sacrifice, and service to protect the forests, grasslands, and communities of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 159

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 159, a bill to designate Ansarallah as a foreign terrorist organization and impose certain sanctions on Ansarallah, and for other purposes.

S. 343

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 343, a bill to require full funding of part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

S. 410

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) 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. 424

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 424, a bill to amend the Federal securities laws to enhance 403(b) plans, and for other purposes.

S. 475

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 475, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure appropriate access to non-opioid pain management drugs under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 573

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 573, a bill to designate a mountain in the State of Alaska as Denali.

S. 942

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 942, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for interest-free deferment on student loans for borrowers serving in a medical or dental internship or residency program.

S. 1175

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) 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. 1318

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1318, a bill to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American Jewish servicemembers buried in

United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, and for other purposes.

S. 1320

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1320, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain steps regarding research related to menopause, perimenopause, or mid-life women's health, and for other purposes.

S. 1374

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1374, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit machinegun conversion devices and illegal modifications of semiautomatic firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 1521

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1521, a bill to amend the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 to provide for a prohibition on contributions to the United Nations related to discrimination against Israel.

S. 1532

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

S. 1664

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1664, a bill to require the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to develop a consistent set of policy guidelines for Federal research agencies to address financial instability of graduate researchers and postdoctoral researchers, and for other purposes.

S. 1793

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1793, a bill to protect the United States and assets of the United States from incursions.

S. 1816

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

S. 1892

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1892, a bill to clarify that amounts from declinations should be deposited in the Crime Victims Fund

and to temporarily provide additional deposits into the Crime Victims Fund.

S. 1992

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1992, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the efficiency of adjudications and appeals of claims for benefits under laws administered by Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2211

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2211, a bill to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Type 1 Diabetes and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.

S. 2229

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2229, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in recognition of the Foreign Service of the United States and its contribution to United States diplomacy.

S. 2290

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S. 2290, a bill to clarify certain regulations to allow for the installation of pulsating light systems for high-mounted stop lamps, and for other purposes.

S. 2378

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2378, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish funds for investments in aviation security checkpoint technology, and for other purposes.

S. 2379

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2379, a bill to amend the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 to authorize the State Justice Institute to provide awards to certain organizations to establish a State judicial threat intelligence and resource center.

S. 2398

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2398, a bill to reauthorize the Kay Hagan Tick Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2426

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2426, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide pharmacy payment of certain services.

S. 2534

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr.

KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2534, a bill to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to certain members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, and for other purposes.

S. 2705

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2705, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to prohibit the award of Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants to States or units of local government that limit the use of cash bail.

S. 2706

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2706, a bill to prohibit cashless bail in the District of Columbia.

S. 2862

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2862, a bill to amend the Child Care Access Means Parents In School Program under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

S. 2903

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2903, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan to provide an exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol, and for other purposes.

S. 2914

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2914, a bill to strengthen strategic defense cooperation between the United States and NATO allies on the Eastern Flank, and for other purposes.

S. 2956

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2956, a bill to prohibit the sale, lease, or loan of used motor vehicles with open recalls to consumers by auto dealers.

S.J. RES. 71

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 71, a joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared with respect to energy.

S.J. RES. 77

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr.

SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 77, a joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared to impose duties on articles imported from Canada.

AMENDMENT NO. 3759

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3759 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 438—CONDEMNING THE BRUTAL HAMAS-LED TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE STATE OF ISRAEL ON OCTOBER 7, 2023, AND SUPPORTING AN OUTCOME THAT ENSURES THE FOREVER SURVIVAL OF ISRAEL, THE COMPLETE DENIAL OF HAMAS'S ABILITY TO RECONSTITUTE IN THE REGION, AND THE RELEASE OF ALL THE REMAINING HOSTAGES FROM THE GAZA STRIP, INCLUDING TWO UNITED STATES CITIZENS

Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COTTON, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BANKS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. LEE, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. RICKETTS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. HUSTED, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. DAINES, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. MORENO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mrs. MOODY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 438

Whereas Hamas is a United States-designated foreign terrorist organization whose founding charter states a commitment to destroying the State of Israel and any nation that would support it, including the United States;

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Iran-backed Hamas terrorists led an attack on Israel that included the murder of an estimated 1,200 individuals, including 40 United States citizens, the taking of 251 individuals hostage, and the launching of thousands of rockets into Israel;

Whereas Israel has the same right to defend itself as any other sovereign nation;

Whereas, after continued hostilities by Iranian proxies, Israel launched operations to

defend its people, eradicate Hamas terrorists, and rescue hostages being held in the Gaza Strip; and

Whereas Iran-backed Hamas has repeatedly broken negotiated cease-fire agreements and initiated attacks against Israel: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns Iran-backed Hamas for—

(A) its brutal attacks on Israel;

(B) killing and taking hostage our fellow Americans; and

(C) its use of rape as a weapon of war and for its inhumane treatment, torture, and murder of hostages;

(2) condemns the destructive and antisemitic protests in the United States at which—

(A) property has been damaged;

(B) American flags have been torn down and burned; and

(C) the safety of Jewish Americans has been threatened;

(3) commends the ongoing cease-fire negotiations to bring an end to the conflict in the Gaza Strip; and

(4) supports an outcome to the conflict that—

(A) ensures the forever survival of Israel;

(B) destroys Hamas's ability to reconstitute any leadership role in the Middle East; and

(C) returns all remaining hostages being held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip, including the remains of United States citizens Omer Neutra and Itay Chen.

SENATE RESOLUTION 439—CONDEMNING ANTISEMITIC HATRED ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS OF OCTOBER 7, 2023

Mr. WELCH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 439

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas invaded more than 20 communities in Israel, resulting in the death of more than 1,200 people, injuries to more than 4,000 people, and the kidnapping of more than 250 hostages;

Whereas October 7, 2023, was the deadliest day for Jewish people since the Holocaust;

Whereas, since October 7, 2023, Jewish communities in the United States, Israel, and around the world have been unfairly targeted by growing threats of violence and prejudice linked to antisemitic hatred;

Whereas such threats, though distinct in method and geography, share a common pattern of targeting Jewish individuals or symbols of Jewish life and civic engagement;

Whereas no individual in the United States should be subjected to violence or intimidation because of their religion, heritage, or peaceful advocacy; and

Whereas community leaders have spoken out against hateful actions and language that associate the Jewish people with actions of the Israeli government, urging respect for Jewish traditions and communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns Hamas in the harshest terms for its premeditated, coordinated, and violent terrorist attacks on Israel;

(2) condemns the antisemitic attacks on Sarah Milgrim, Yaron Lischinsky, Karen Diamond, and the family of Governor Josh Shapiro, and all acts of antisemitism, whether expressed through threats, vandalism, or violence;

(3) reaffirms the commitment to protecting the rights of all people in the United States to assemble peacefully and practice their faith without fear of violence;

(4) condemns hateful language that—

(A) makes general claims about all Jewish people;

(B) associates Jewish Americans and Jewish people around the world with the military and government actions of the State of Israel; and

(C) accuses Jewish people categorically of being hateful or harboring genocidal intent; and

(5) urges elected officials, community leaders, and civil society to speak out against antisemitism.

SENATE RESOLUTION 440—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2025 AS “NATIONAL SPINAL CORD INJURY AWARENESS MONTH”

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

S. RES. 440

Whereas approximately 308,000 individuals in the United States live with spinal cord injuries, which cost society billions of dollars in health care costs and lost wages;

Whereas there are approximately 18,000 new spinal cord injuries in the United States each year;

Whereas more than 42,000 individuals with spinal cord injuries are veterans;

Whereas motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of spinal cord injuries;

Whereas almost half of all spinal cord injuries sustained by individuals 30 years of age or younger occur as a result of a vehicular accident;

Whereas the average remaining years of life for individuals living with spinal cord injuries has not improved significantly since the 1980s;

Whereas there is an urgent need to develop new neuroprotection, pharmacological, and regeneration treatments to reduce, prevent, and reverse paralysis; and

Whereas education and funding in research are key factors in improving outcomes for individuals living with spinal cord injuries, enhancing the quality of life of individuals with spinal cord injuries, and ultimately curing paralysis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2025 as “National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support research to find better treatments, therapies, and a cure for spinal cord injuries;

(4) supports clinical trials for new therapies that offer promise and hope to individuals living with paralysis; and

(5) commends the dedication of national, regional, and local organizations, researchers, doctors, volunteers, and people across the United States who are working to improve the quality of life of individuals living with spinal cord injuries and their families.

SENATE RESOLUTION 441—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 5, 2025, THROUGH OCTOBER 11, 2025, AS “NATIONAL COMMUNITY POLICING WEEK”

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 441

Whereas police officers are indispensable members of the community who put their lives on the line to protect others;

Whereas promoting strong relationships, founded in trust and mutual respect, between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve helps ensure the safe and effective execution of the law;

Whereas relationships developed through community policing help protect both law enforcement officers and civilians;

Whereas law enforcement officers and communities that work together to address public safety concerns can create lasting solutions to difficult challenges;

Whereas community policing has helped produce reductions in both violent and property crime;

Whereas events in recent years have sparked a nationwide call to improve the interactions between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve;

Whereas community policing facilitates peaceful dialogue, capable of fostering understanding and trust, between law enforcement officers and civilians;

Whereas community policing informs the public about the challenges that law enforcement officers face in executing their duties and provides law enforcement officers insight into the concerns of community members;

Whereas a long-term commitment to community policing is necessary to eliminate the underlying causes of crime;

Whereas the advancement of community policing should be supported to ensure that State and local law enforcement agencies have necessary resources; and

Whereas community policing has been recognized as an important tool for improving the relationship between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of October 5, 2025, through October 11, 2025, as “National Community Policing Week”; and

(2) supports community policing and encourages the people of the United States, law enforcement agencies, and elected officials to identify ways in which communities can improve public safety, strengthen relationships, and build trust.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3924. Ms. LUMMIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3925. Mr. KELLY (for himself and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3926. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3924. Ms. LUMMIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr.

WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10. PROHIBITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), none of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or an amendment made by this Act, or otherwise made available to any department or agency of the Federal Government pursuant to this Act or an amendment made by this Act, may be used to establish, administer, fund, or contract with any entity—

(1) to function as an intermediary or regranting institution for the purpose of financing greenhouse gas reduction projects, climate justice initiatives, or similar environmental programs; and

(2) to receive funding for the primary purpose of distributing subgrants or loans to third parties for the purposes described in paragraph (1).

(b) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section limits the authority of the Federal Government to provide funding to a Federal, State, territorial, or local governmental agency for any purpose.

SA 3925. Mr. KELLY (for himself and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 7. IMPROVEMENTS TO DEPENDENT COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM.

(a) EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Subsection (b) of section 1110b of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (3); and

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

(b) ELIMINATION OF SEPARATE PREMIUM FOR A YOUNG ADULT.—Such section is further amended by striking subsection (c).

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1075(c)(3) of such title is amended by striking “section 1076d, 1076e, or 1110b” and inserting “section 1076d or 1076e”.

SA 3926. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division A, add the following:

TITLE XVII—FIGHT CHINA ACT OF 2025**SEC. 1701. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Foreign Investment Guardrails to Help Thwart China Act of 2025” or “FIGHT China Act of 2025”.

SEC. 1702. SECRETARY DEFINED.

Except as otherwise provided, in this title, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Treasury.

SEC. 1703. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this title, or the application thereof, is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this title and the application of such provision to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 1704. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$150,000,000 to the Department of the Treasury, out of which amounts may be transferred to the Department of Commerce to jointly conduct outreach to industry and persons affected by this title, for each of the first two fiscal years beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, to carry out this title.

(b) HIRING AUTHORITY.—

(1) BY THE PRESIDENT.—The President may appoint, without regard to the provisions of sections 3309 through 3318 of title 5, United States Code, not more than 15 individuals directly to positions in the competitive service (as defined in section 2102 of that title) to carry out this title.

(2) BY AGENCIES.—The Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce may appoint, without regard to the provisions of sections 3309 through 3318 of title 5, United States Code, individuals directly to positions in the competitive service (as defined in section 2102 of that title) of the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Commerce, respectively, to carry out this title.

SEC. 1705. TERMINATION.

This title shall cease to have any force or effect on the date on which the Secretary of Commerce revises section 791.4 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, to remove the People's Republic of China from the list of foreign adversaries contained in such section.

Subtitle A—Imposition of Sanctions**SEC. 1711. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President may impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any foreign person determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to be a covered foreign person.

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The President may exercise all of the powers granted to the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of a foreign person that is determined to be a covered foreign person pursuant to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(c) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to any person who violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of any prohibition of this section, or an order or regulation prescribed under this section, to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in section 206(a) of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1705(a)).

(d) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to

any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(e) EXCEPTION FOR UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES.—Nothing in this section shall prohibit transactions for the conduct of the official business of the Federal Government by employees, grantees, or contractors thereof.

(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 365 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 7 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

(1) states whether each foreign person on the Non-SDN Chinese Military-Industrial Complex Companies List is a covered foreign person; and

(2) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(g) CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION IN IMPOSING SANCTIONS.—In determining whether a foreign person is a covered foreign person, the President—

(1) may consider credible information obtained by other countries, nongovernmental organizations, or the appropriate congressional committees that relates to the foreign person; and

(2) may consider any other information that the Secretary deems relevant.

(h) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(i) DELEGATION.—The President shall delegate the authorities granted by this section to the Secretary.

SEC. 1712. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

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

(A) the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(2) COUNTRY OF CONCERN.—The term “country of concern” —

(A) means the People's Republic of China; and

(B) includes the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Macau Special Administrative Region.

(3) COVERED FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “covered foreign person” means a foreign person—

(A)(i) that is incorporated in, has a principal place of business in, or is organized under the laws of a country of concern;

(ii) the equity securities of which are primarily traded in the ordinary course of business on one or more exchanges in a country of concern;

(iii) that is a member of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party;

(iv) that is the state or the government of a country of concern, as well as any political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof;

(v) that is subject to the direction or control of any entity described in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv); or

(vi) that is owned in the aggregate, directly or indirectly, 50 percent or more by an entity or a group of entities described in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv); and

(B) that knowingly engaged in significant operations in the defense and related material sector or the surveillance technology

sector of the economy of a country of concern.

(4) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign person” means a person, country, state, or government (and any political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof) that is not a United States person.

(5) NON-SDN CHINESE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX COMPANIES LIST.—The term “Non-SDN Chinese Military-Industrial Complex Companies List” means the list maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury under Executive Order 13959, as amended by Executive Order 14032 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to addressing the threat from securities investments that finance certain companies of the People's Republic of China), or any successor order.

(6) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) any United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States (including any foreign branch of such an entity); or

(C) any person in the United States.

Subtitle B—Prohibition and Notification on Investments Relating to Covered National Security Transactions**SEC. 1721. PROHIBITION AND NOTIFICATION ON INVESTMENTS RELATING TO COVERED NATIONAL SECURITY TRANSACTIONS.**

The Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“TITLE VIII—PROHIBITION AND NOTIFICATION ON INVESTMENTS RELATING TO COVERED NATIONAL SECURITY TRANSACTIONS**“SEC. 801. PROHIBITION ON INVESTMENTS.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may prohibit, in accordance with regulations issued under subsection (e), a United States person from knowingly engaging in a covered national security transaction in a prohibited technology.

“(b) EVASION.—Any transaction by a United States person or within the United States that evades or avoids, has the purpose of evading or avoiding, causes a violation of, or attempts to violate the prohibition set forth in subsection (a) is prohibited.

“(c) WAIVER.—Subject to subsection (d), the Secretary is authorized to exempt from the prohibition set forth in subsection (a) any activity determined by the President, in consultation with the Secretary, the Secretary of Commerce and, as appropriate, the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, to be in the national interest of the United States.

“(d) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) notify the appropriate congressional committees not later than 5 business days after issuing a waiver under subsection (c); and

“(2) include in such notification an identification of the national interest justifying the use of the waiver.

“(e) REGULATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and, as appropriate, the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, may issue regulations to carry out this section in accordance with subchapter II of chapter 5 and chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as ‘Administrative Procedure Act’).

“(2) NON-BINDING FEEDBACK.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The regulations issued under paragraph (1) shall include a process

under which a person can request non-binding feedback on a confidential basis as to whether a transaction would constitute a covered national security transaction in a prohibited technology.

“(B) **AUTHORITY TO LIMIT FRIVOLOUS FEEDBACK REQUESTS.**—In establishing the process required by subparagraph (A), the Secretary may prescribe limitations on requests for feedback identified as frivolous for purposes of this subsection.

“(3) **NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The regulations issued under paragraph (1) shall account for whether a United States person has self-identified a violation of the prohibition set forth in subsection (a) in determining the legal consequences of that violation.

“(B) **SELF-DISCLOSURE LETTERS.**—The regulations issued under paragraph (1) shall dictate the form and content of a letter of self-disclosure, which shall include relevant facts about the violation, why the United States person believes its activity to have violated the prohibition set forth in subsection (a), and a proposal for mitigation of the harm of such action.

“(4) **PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.**—The regulations issued under paragraph (1) shall be subject to public notice and comment.

“(5) **LOW-BURDEN REGULATIONS.**—In issuing regulations under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall balance the priority of protecting the national security interest of the United States while, to the extent practicable—

“(A) minimizing the cost and complexity of compliance for affected parties, including the duplication of reporting requirements under current regulations;

“(B) adopting the least burdensome alternative that achieves regulatory objectives; and

“(C) prioritizing transparency and stakeholder involvement in the process of issuing the rules.

“(6) **PENALTIES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The regulations issued under paragraph (1) shall provide for the imposition of civil penalties described in subparagraph (B) for violations of the prohibition set forth in subsection (a).

“(B) **PENALTIES DESCRIBED.**—

“(i) **UNLAWFUL ACTS.**—It shall be unlawful for a person to violate, attempt to violate, conspire to violate, or cause a violation of any license, order, regulation, notification requirement, or prohibition issued under this section.

“(ii) **CIVIL PENALTY.**—The Secretary may impose a civil penalty on any person who commits an unlawful act described in clause (i) in an amount not to exceed the greater of—

“(I) \$250,000; or

“(II) an amount that is twice the amount of the transaction that is the basis of the violation with respect to which the penalty is imposed.

“(iii) **DIVESTMENT.**—The Secretary may compel the divestment of a covered national security transaction in a prohibited technology determined to be in violation of this title.

“(iv) **RELIEF.**—The President may direct the Attorney General of the United States to seek appropriate relief, including divestment relief, in the district courts of the United States, in order to implement and enforce this title.

“(7) **BURDEN OF PROOF.**—In accordance with section 556(d) of title 5, United States Code, in an enforcement action for a violation of the prohibition set forth in subsection (a), the burden of proof shall be upon the Secretary.

“SEC. 802. NOTIFICATION ON INVESTMENTS.

“(a) **MANDATORY NOTIFICATION.**—Not later than 450 days after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary shall issue regulations prescribed in accordance with subsection (b), to require a United States person that engages in a covered national security transaction in a prohibited technology (unless the Secretary has exercised the authority provided by section 801(a) to prohibit knowingly engaging in such covered national security transaction) or a notifiable technology to submit to the Secretary a written notification of the transaction not later than 30 days after the completion date of the transaction.

“(b) **REGULATIONS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 450 days after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and, as appropriate, the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall issue regulations to carry out this section in accordance with subchapter II of chapter 5 and chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as ‘Administrative Procedure Act’).

“(2) **PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.**—The regulations issued under paragraph (1) shall be subject to public notice and comment.

“(3) **LOW-BURDEN REGULATIONS.**—In issuing regulations under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall balance the priority of protecting the national security interest of the United States while, to the extent practicable—

“(A) minimizing the cost and complexity of compliance for affected parties, including the duplication of reporting requirements under current regulation;

“(B) adopting the least burdensome alternative that achieves regulatory objectives; and

“(C) prioritizing transparency and stakeholder involvement in the process of issuing the rules.

“(4) **PENALTIES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The regulations issued under paragraph (1) shall provide for the imposition of civil penalties described in subparagraph (B) for violations of the notification requirement set forth in subsection (a).

“(B) **PENALTIES DESCRIBED.**—

“(i) **UNLAWFUL ACTS.**—It shall be unlawful for a person to violate, attempt to violate, conspire to violate, or cause a violation of any license, order, regulation, notification requirement, or prohibition issued under this section.

“(ii) **CIVIL PENALTY.**—A civil penalty may be imposed on any person who commits an unlawful act described in clause (i) in an amount not to exceed the greater of—

“(I) \$250,000; or

“(II) an amount that is twice the amount of the transaction that is the basis of the violation with respect to which the penalty is imposed.

“(5) **BURDEN OF PROOF.**—In accordance with section 556(d) of title 5, United States Code, in an enforcement action for a violation of the prohibition set forth in subsection (a), the burden of proof shall be upon the Secretary.

“(6) **COMPLETENESS OF NOTIFICATION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall, upon receipt of a notification under subsection (a), and in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, promptly inspect the notification for completeness.

“(B) **INCOMPLETE NOTIFICATIONS.**—If a notification submitted under subsection (a) is incomplete, the Secretary shall promptly inform the United States person that submits the notification that the notification is not complete and provide an explanation of relevant material respects in which the notification is not complete.

“(7) **IDENTIFICATION OF NON-NOTIFIED ACTIVITY.**—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce, shall establish a process to identify covered national security transactions in a prohibited technology or a notifiable technology for which—

“(A) a notification is not submitted to the Secretary under subsection (a); and

“(B) information is reasonably available.

“(c) **CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), any information or documentary material filed with the Secretary pursuant to this section shall be exempt from disclosure under section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code, and no such information or documentary material may be made public by any government agency or Member of Congress.

“(2) **EXCEPTIONS.**—The exemption from disclosure provided by paragraph (1) shall not prevent the disclosure of the following:

“(A) Information relevant to any administrative or judicial action or proceeding.

“(B) Information provided to Congress or any of the appropriate congressional committees.

“(C) Information important to the national security analysis or actions of the Secretary to any domestic governmental entity, or to any foreign governmental entity of an ally or partner of the United States, under the direction and authorization of the Secretary, only to the extent necessary for national security purposes, and subject to appropriate confidentiality and classification requirements.

“(D) Information that the parties have consented to be disclosed to third parties.

“(E) Information where the disclosure of such information is determined by the Secretary to be in the national security interest.

“(d) **INAPPLICABILITY.**—If the Secretary prohibits a covered national security transaction in a prohibited technology under section 801, the requirements of this section shall not apply with respect to the covered national security transaction.

“SEC. 803. REPORT.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date on which the regulations issued under section 801(e) take effect, and not less frequently than annually thereafter for 7 years, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

“(1) lists all enforcement actions taken subject to the regulations during the year preceding submission of the report, which includes, with respect to each such action, a description of—

“(A) the prohibited technology or notifiable technology;

“(B) the covered national security transaction; and

“(C) the covered foreign person;

“(2) provides an assessment of whether Congress should amend the definition of the term ‘prohibited technology’ by—

“(A) identifying additional technologies, not currently listed as a prohibited technology, that the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and, as applicable, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Energy, the Director of National Intelligence, and the heads of any other relevant Federal agencies, determines may pose an acute threat to the national security of the United States if developed or acquired by a country of concern;

“(B) explaining why each technology identified in subparagraph (A) may pose an acute threat to the national security of the United States if developed or acquired by a country of concern; and

“(C) recommending the repeal of technologies from the category of prohibited technology to the extent that the technologies no longer pose an acute threat to the national security of the United States if developed or acquired by a country of concern;

“(3) lists all notifications submitted under section 802 during the year preceding submission of the report and includes, with respect to each such notification—

“(A) basic information on each party to the covered national security transaction with respect to which the notification was submitted; and

“(B) the nature of the covered national security transaction that was the subject to the notification, including the elements of the covered national security transaction that necessitated a notification;

“(4) includes a summary of those notifications, disaggregated by prohibited technology, notifiable technology, by covered national security transaction, and by country of concern;

“(5) provides additional context and information regarding trends in the prohibited technology, notifiable technology, the types of covered national security transaction, and the countries involved in those notifications; and

“(6) assesses the overall impact of those notifications, including recommendations for—

“(A) expanding existing Federal programs to support the production or supply of prohibited technologies or notifiable technologies in the United States, including the potential of existing authorities to address any related national security concerns;

“(B) investments needed to enhance prohibited technologies or notifiable technologies and reduce dependence on countries of concern regarding those technologies; and

“(C) the continuation, expansion, or modification of the implementation and administration of this title, including recommendations with respect to whether the definition of the term ‘country of concern’ under section 807(2) should be amended to add or remove countries.

“(b) CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—In preparing the report pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary—

“(1) shall consider information provided jointly by the chairperson and ranking member of any of the appropriate congressional committees;

“(2) may consider credible information obtained by other countries and nongovernmental organizations that monitor the military, surveillance, intelligence, or technology capabilities of a country of concern; and

“(3) may consider any other information that the Secretary deems relevant.

“(c) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required by this section shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

“(d) TESTIMONY REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this title, and annually thereafter for five years, the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce shall each provide to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives testimony with respect to the national security threats relating to investments by United States persons in countries of concern and broader international capital flows.

“(e) REQUESTS BY APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—After receiving a request that meets the requirements of paragraph (2) with respect to whether a technology should be included in the amendments as described

in subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall, in preparing the report pursuant to subsection (a)—

“(A) determine if that technology may pose an acute threat to the national security of the United States if developed or acquired by a country of concern; and

“(B) include in the report pursuant to subsection (a) an explanation with respect to that determination that includes—

“(i) a statement of whether or not the technology, as determined by the Secretary, may pose an acute threat to the national security of the United States if developed or acquired by a country of concern; and

“(ii) if the Secretary determines that—

“(I) the technology may pose an acute threat to the national security of the United States if developed or acquired by a country of concern, an explanation for such determination and a recommendation whether that technology should be named a prohibited technology or a notifiable technology; and

“(II) the technology would not pose an acute threat to the national security of the United States if developed or acquired by a country of concern, an explanation for such determination.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A request under paragraph (1) with respect to whether a technology may pose an acute threat to the national security of the United States if developed or acquired by a country of concern shall be submitted to the Secretary in writing jointly by the chairperson and ranking member of one or more of the appropriate congressional committees.

“SEC. 804. MULTILATERAL ENGAGEMENT AND COORDINATION.

“(a) AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, should—

“(1) conduct bilateral and multilateral engagement with the governments of countries that are allies and partners of the United States to promote and increase coordination of protocols and procedures to facilitate the effective implementation of and appropriate compliance with the prohibitions pursuant to this title;

“(2) upon adoption of protocols and procedures described in paragraph (1), work with those governments to establish mechanisms for sharing information, including trends, with respect to such activities; and

“(3) work with and encourage the governments of countries that are allies and partners of the United States to develop similar mechanisms of their own, for the exclusive purpose of preventing the development or acquisition of prohibited technologies by a country of concern.

“(b) STRATEGY FOR MULTILATERAL ENGAGEMENT AND COORDINATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, should—

“(1) develop a strategy to work with the governments of countries that are allies and partners of the United States to develop mechanisms that are comparable to the prohibitions pursuant to this title, for the exclusive purpose of preventing the development and acquisition of prohibited technologies by a country of concern; and

“(2) assess opportunities to provide technical assistance to those countries with respect to the development of those mechanisms.

“(c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this title, and annually thereafter for four years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate

congressional committees a report that includes—

“(1) a discussion of any strategy developed pursuant to subsection (b)(1), including key tools and objectives for the development of comparable mechanisms by the governments of allies and partners of the United States;

“(2) a list of partner and allied countries to target for cooperation in developing their own prohibitions;

“(3) the status of the strategy’s implementation and outcomes; and

“(4) a description of impediments to the establishment of comparable mechanisms by governments of allies and partners of the United States.

“(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

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

“SEC. 805. PUBLIC DATABASE OF COVERED FOREIGN PERSONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, may establish a publicly accessible, non-exhaustive database that identifies covered foreign persons in a prohibited technology pursuant to this title.

“(b) CONFIDENTIALITY OF EVIDENCE.—The Secretary shall establish a mechanism for the public, including Congress, stakeholders, investors, and nongovernmental organizations, to submit evidence on a confidential basis regarding whether a foreign person is a covered foreign person in a prohibited technology and should be included in the database described in subsection (a), if any.

“(c) EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), any information or documentary material filed with the Secretary pursuant to this section shall be exempt from disclosure under section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code, and no such information or documentary material may be made public (other than the identity of a covered foreign person in accordance with subsection (b)).

“(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not prohibit the disclosure of the following:

“(A) Information relevant to any administrative or judicial action or proceeding.

“(B) Information to Congress or any duly authorized committee or subcommittee of Congress.

“(C) Information important to the national security analysis or actions of the Secretary to any domestic governmental entity, or to any foreign governmental entity of a United States ally or partner, under the exclusive direction and authorization of the Secretary, only to the extent necessary for national security purposes, and subject to appropriate confidentiality and classification requirements.

“(D) Information that the parties have consented to be disclosed to third parties.

“(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The database described in subsection (a), if any, shall not be considered to be an exhaustive or comprehensive list of covered foreign persons for the purposes of this title.

“SEC. 806. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

“Nothing in this title may be construed to negate the authority of the President under any authority, process, regulation, investigation, enforcement measure, or review provided by or established under any other provision of Federal law, or any other authority of the President or the Congress under the Constitution of the United States.

“SEC. 807. DEFINITIONS.

“In this title:

“(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—Except as provided by section 804(d), the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

“(B) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

“(2) **COUNTRY OF CONCERN.**—The term ‘country of concern’—

“(A) means the People’s Republic of China; and

“(B) includes the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Macau Special Administrative Region.

“(3) **COVERED FOREIGN PERSON.**—Subject to regulations prescribed in accordance with this title, the term ‘covered foreign person’ means a foreign person that—

“(A) is incorporated in, has a principal place of business in, or is organized under the laws of a country of concern;

“(B) is a member of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party;

“(C) is subject to the direction or control of a country of concern, an entity described in subparagraph (A) or (B), or the state or the government of a country of concern (including any political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof); or

“(D) is owned in the aggregate, directly or indirectly, 50 percent or more by a country of concern, an entity described in subparagraph (A) or (B), or the state or the government of a country of concern (including any political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof).

“(4) **COVERED NATIONAL SECURITY TRANSACTION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to such regulations as may be issued in accordance with this title, the term ‘covered national security transaction’ means any activity engaged in by a United States person that involves—

“(i) the acquisition of an equity interest or contingent equity interest in a covered foreign person;

“(ii) the provision of a loan or similar debt financing arrangement to a covered foreign person, where such debt financing—

“(I) is convertible to an equity interest; or

“(II) affords or will afford the United States person the right to make management decisions with respect to or on behalf of a covered foreign person or the right to appoint members of the board of directors (or equivalent) of the covered foreign person;

“(iii) the entrance by such United States person into a joint venture with a covered foreign person;

“(iv) the conversion of a contingent equity interest (or interest equivalent to a contingent equity interest) or conversion of debt to an equity interest in a covered foreign person;

“(v) the acquisition, leasing, or other development of operations, land, property, or other assets in a country of concern that will result in, or that the United States person intends to result in—

“(I) the establishment of a covered foreign person; or

“(II) the engagement of a person of a country of concern in a prohibited technology where it was not previously engaged in such prohibited technology;

“(vi) knowingly directing transactions by foreign persons that the United States person has knowledge at the time of the transaction would constitute an activity described in clause (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), or (v), if engaged in by a United States person; or

“(vii) the acquisition of a limited partner or equivalent interest in a venture capital fund, private equity fund, fund of funds, or other pooled investment fund that the United States person has knowledge at the time of the acquisition, intends to engage in an activity described in clause (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), or (vi).

“(B) **EXCEPTIONS.**—Subject to notice and comment regulations prescribed in consultation with Congress and in accordance with this title, the term ‘covered national security transaction’ does not include—

“(i) any transaction the value of which the Secretary determines is de minimis;

“(ii) any category of transactions that the Secretary determines is in the national interest of the United States;

“(iii) an investment—

“(I) in a security (as defined in section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a))) that is traded on an exchange or the over-the-counter market in any jurisdiction;

“(II) in a security issued by an investment company (as defined in section 3 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-3)) that is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission;

“(III) made as a limited partner or equivalent in a venture capital fund, private equity fund, fund of funds, or other pooled investment fund (other than as described in subclause (II)) where—

“(aa) the limited partner or equivalent’s committed capital is not more than \$2,000,000, aggregated across any investment and co-investment vehicles of the fund; or

“(bb) the limited partner or equivalent has secured a binding contractual assurance that its capital in the fund will not be used to engage in a transaction that would be a covered national security transaction if engaged in by a United States person; or

“(IV) in a derivative of a security described under subclause (I), (II), or (III);

“(iv) any ancillary transaction undertaken by a financial institution (as defined in section 5312 of title 31, United States Code);

“(v) the acquisition by a United States person of the equity or other interest owned or held by a covered foreign person in an entity or assets located outside of a country of concern in which the United States person is acquiring the totality of the interest in the entity held by the covered foreign person;

“(vi) an intracompany transfer of funds, as defined in regulations prescribed in accordance with this title, from a United States parent company to a subsidiary located in a country of concern or a transaction that, but for this clause, would be a covered national security transaction between a United States person and its controlled foreign person that supports operations that are not covered national security transactions or that maintains covered national security transactions that the controlled foreign person was engaged in prior to January 2, 2025;

“(vii) a transaction secondary to a covered national security transaction, including—

“(I) contractual arrangements or the procurement of material inputs for any covered national security transaction (such as raw materials);

“(II) bank lending;

“(III) the processing, clearing, or sending of payments by a bank;

“(IV) underwriting services;

“(V) debt rating services;

“(VI) prime brokerage;

“(VII) global custody;

“(VIII) equity research or analysis; or

“(IX) other similar services;

“(viii) any ordinary or administrative business transaction as may be defined in such regulations; or

“(ix) any transaction completed before the date of the enactment of this title.

“(C) **ANCILLARY TRANSACTION DEFINED.**—In this paragraph, the term ‘ancillary transaction’ means—

“(i) the processing, settling, clearing, or sending of payments and cash transactions;

“(ii) underwriting services;

“(iii) credit rating services; and

“(iv) other services ordinarily incident to and part of the provision of financial services, such as opening deposit accounts, direct custody services, foreign exchange services, remittances services, and safe deposit services.

“(5) **FOREIGN PERSON.**—The term ‘foreign person’ means a person that is not a United States person.

“(6) **NOTIFIABLE TECHNOLOGY.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘notifiable technology’ means a technology with respect to which a covered foreign person—

“(i) designs any advanced integrated circuit that is not covered under paragraph (8)(A)(iii);

“(ii) fabricates any integrated circuit that is not covered under paragraph (8)(A)(iv);

“(iii) packages any integrated circuit that is not covered under paragraph (8)(A)(v); or

“(iv) develops any artificial intelligence system that is not covered under clause (vii), (viii), (ix), or (xvi) of paragraph (8)(A), and that is—

“(I) designed to be used for—

“(aa) any military end use (such as for weapons targeting, target identification, combat simulation, military vehicle or weapons control, military decision-making, weapons design (including chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear weapons), or combat system logistics and maintenance); or

“(bb) any government intelligence or mass-surveillance end use (such as through incorporation of features such as mining text, audio, or video, image recognition, location tracking, or surreptitious listening devices);

“(II) intended by the covered foreign person or joint venture to be used for—

“(aa) cybersecurity applications;

“(bb) digital forensics tools;

“(cc) penetration testing tools; or

“(dd) control of robotic systems; or

“(III) trained using a quantity of computing power greater than 10²³ computational operations (such as integer or floating-point operations).

“(B) **UPDATES.**—The Secretary, in consultation with Congress, may prescribe regulations in accordance with this title to refine the technical parameters of technologies described in subparagraph (A) as reasonably needed for national security purposes or to add or remove categories to or from the list in subparagraph (A).

“(7) **PARTY.**—The term ‘party’, with respect to a covered national security transaction, has the meaning given that term in regulations prescribed in accordance with this title.

“(8) **PROHIBITED TECHNOLOGY.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘prohibited technology’ means a technology with respect to which a covered foreign person—

“(i) develops or produces any design automation software for the design of integrated circuits or advanced packaging;

“(ii) develops or produces any—

“(I) electronic design automation software for the design of integrated circuits or advanced packaging;

“(II) front-end semiconductor fabrication equipment designed for the volume fabrication of integrated circuits, including equipment used in the production stages from a blank wafer or substrate to a completed wafer or substrate; or

“(III) equipment for performing volume advanced packaging;

“(iii) designs any integrated circuit designs that meet or exceed the specifications set in Export Control Classification Number (ECCN) 3A090 in Supplement No. 1 to the Export Administration Regulations, or integrated circuits designed for operation at or below 4.5 Kelvin;

“(iv) fabricates integrated circuits that are—

“(I) logic integrated circuits using a non-planar transistor architecture or with a technology node of 16/14 nanometers or less, including fully depleted silicon-on-insulator (FDSOI) integrated circuits;

“(II) NOT-AND (NAND) memory integrated circuits with 128 layers or more;

“(III) dynamic random-access memory (DRAM) integrated circuits using a technology node of 18 nanometer half-pitch or less;

“(IV) integrated circuits manufactured from a gallium-based compound semiconductor;

“(V) integrated circuits using graphene transistors or carbon nanotubes; or

“(VI) integrated circuits designed for operation at or below 4.5 Kelvin;

“(v) packages any integrated circuit using advanced packaging techniques;

“(vi) develops, designs, or produces any commodity, material, software, or technology designed exclusively for use in or with extreme ultraviolet lithography fabrication equipment;

“(vii) develops, designs, or produces any artificial intelligence models trained with at least 10²⁵ floating point operations;

“(viii) develops, designs, or produces any artificial intelligence models that rely upon or utilize advanced integrated circuits that meet or exceed the specifications set in Export Control Classification Number (ECCN) 3A090 in Supplement No. 1 to the Export Administration Regulations;

“(ix) develops, designs, or produces any artificial intelligence models designed for use by the Government of the People's Republic of China, its special administrative regions, or its agencies and instrumentalities;

“(x) develops a quantum computer or produces any critical components required to produce a quantum computer such as a dilution refrigerator or two-stage pulse tube cryocooler;

“(xi) develops or produces any quantum sensing platform designed for, or which the relevant covered foreign person intends to be used for, any military, government intelligence, or mass-surveillance end use;

“(xii) develops or produces quantum networks or quantum communication systems designed for or intended to be used for—

“(I) networking to scale up the capabilities of quantum computers, such as for the purposes of breaking or compromising encryption;

“(II) secure communications, such as quantum key distribution; or

“(III) any other application that has any military, government intelligence, or mass-surveillance end use;

“(xiii) develops, designs, or produces materials, components, avionics, flight control, propulsion, Global Positioning System (GPS), data relay, and target detection systems designed for use in hypersonic systems or capable of sustainable operations above 1,000 degrees Celsius;

“(xiv) develops, installs, sells, or produces any supercomputer enabled by advanced integrated circuits that can provide theoretical compute capacity of 100 or more double-precision (64-bit) petaflops or 200 or more single-precision (32-bit) petaflops of processing power within a 41,600 cubic foot or smaller envelope;

“(xv) develops, designs, or produces any other technologies in the advanced semiconductors and microelectronics sector, the artificial intelligence sector, the high-performance computing and supercomputing sector, the hypersonic missiles sector, or the quantum information science and technology sector that are—

“(I) defense articles or defense services included on the United States Munitions List set forth in the International Traffic in Arms Regulations under subchapter M of chapter I of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations;

“(II) specially designed and prepared nuclear equipment, parts or components, materials, software, or technologies covered by part 810 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to assistance to foreign atomic energy activities);

“(III) nuclear facilities, equipment, or materials covered by part 110 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to export and import of nuclear equipment and material); or

“(IV) emerging or foundational technologies controlled pursuant to section 1758 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4817); or

“(xvi) develops any artificial intelligence system that is designed to be exclusively used for, or which the relevant covered foreign person intends to be used for, any—

“(I) military end use (such as for weapons targeting, target identification, combat simulation, military vehicle or weapon control, military decision-making, weapons design (including chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear weapons), or combat system logistics and maintenance); or

“(II) government intelligence or mass-surveillance end (such as through incorporation of features such as mining text, audio, or video, image recognition, location tracking, or surreptitious listening devices).

“(B) UPDATES.—The Secretary, in consultation with Congress, may prescribe regulations in accordance with this title to make updates to the technical parameters of technologies described in subparagraph (A) as reasonably needed for national security purposes.

“(9) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise provided, the term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(10) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ‘United States person’ means—

“(A) any United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

“(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States (including any foreign branch of such an entity); or

“(C) any person in the United States.”.

Subtitle C—Securities and Related Matters

SEC. 1731. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO THE NON-SDN CHINESE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX COMPANIES LIST.

(a) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 365 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and biennially thereafter for 6 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that states whether any of the following foreign persons qualifies for inclusion on the Non-SDN Chinese Military-Industrial Complex Companies List:

(A) Any PRC person listed on the Military End-User List (Supplement No. 7 to part 744 of the Export Administration Regulations).

(B) Any PRC person listed pursuant to section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (10 U.S.C. 113 note).

(C) Any PRC person listed on the Department of Commerce's Entity List (Supple-

ment No. 4 to part 744 of the Export Administration Regulations).

(2) PROCESS REQUIRED.—To prepare the reports under paragraph (1), the President shall establish a process under which the Federal agencies responsible for administering the lists described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (1) shall share with each other all relevant information that led to the identification of the entities described in such lists.

(3) RISK-BASED PRIORITIZATION FRAMEWORK.—In making the initial determinations under paragraph (1), the Secretary may establish a risk-based prioritization framework factoring in prioritization of entity review submitted to the Secretary by the Federal agencies administering the lists described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (1).

(4) ANNUAL REPORTS TO THE APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The report under paragraph (1) may summarize findings concerning entities previously reviewed pursuant to this section and do not necessitate additional review by the Secretary.

(5) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The Secretary shall include in the report required by paragraph (1) an overview of the criteria required for listing on Non-SDN Chinese Military-Industrial Complex Companies List. The heads of the Federal agencies administering the lists described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (1) shall provide an overview of the criteria for entity identification or listing on each respective list.

(b) REQUIREMENT FOR DIVESTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall promulgate rules that prohibit a United States person from knowingly holding securities of entities on the Non-SDN Chinese Military-Industrial Complex Companies List, after the date that is 365 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) AUTHORIZATION.—The prohibitions on investment imposed under paragraph (1) shall not apply to a transaction in a security that is entered into on or before the date that is 365 days after the date of enactment of this Act by a United States person, if such transaction is entered into solely to divest of the security.

(c) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may establish a process under which the requirements of subsection (b) shall not apply if the President determines to do so is necessary to protect the national security or foreign policy objectives of the United States.

(2) CASE-BY-CASE REQUIREMENT.—Determinations under paragraph (1) shall be issued on a case-by-case basis for each entity on the Non-SDN Chinese Military-Industrial Complex Companies List.

(3) NOTICE AND BRIEFING.—The President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees in writing in advance of issuing a determination under paragraph (1) and shall provide a substantive briefing on the determination to the appropriate congressional committees within 30 days of issuing a determination.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

(A) the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(2) COUNTRY OF CONCERN.—The term “country of concern”—

(A) means the People's Republic of China; and

(B) includes the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Macau Special Administrative Region.

(3) NON-SDN CHINESE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX COMPANIES LIST.—The term “Non-SDN Chinese Military-Industrial Complex Companies List” means the list maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury under Executive Order 13959, as amended by Executive Order 14032 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to addressing the threat from securities investments that finance certain companies of the People’s Republic of China), and any successor order.

(4) PRC PERSON.—The term “PRC person” means a foreign person that—

(A) is incorporated in a principal place of business in, or is organized under the laws of, a country of concern;

(B) is a member of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party;

(C) is the state or the government of a country of concern, as well as any political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof; or

(D) is owned in the aggregate, directly or indirectly, 50 percent or more by an entity or a group of entities described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C).

Subtitle D—General Provisions

SEC. 1741. EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions authorized under this title shall not include the authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(b) GOOD DEFINED.—In this section, the term “good” means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS AND OTHER MATTERS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 167, S. 2882.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

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.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 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.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I withdraw my motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right.

The motion is withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

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.

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 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.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO “MILES CITY FIELD OFFICE RECORD OF DECISION AND APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT”—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to H.J. Res. 104.

VOTE ON MOTION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

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

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) would have voted “yea.”

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 548 Leg.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Cantwell	Galleo
Baldwin	Coons	Gillibrand
Bennet	Cortez Masto	Hassan
Blumenthal	Duckworth	Heinrich
Blunt Rochester	Durbin	Hickenlooper
Booker	Fetterman	Hirono

Kaine
Kelly
Kim
King
Klobuchar
Lujan
Markey
Merkley
Murphy
Murray

Ossoff
Padilla
Peters
Reed
Rosen
Sanders
Schatz
Schiff
Schumer
Shaheen

Slotkin
Smith
Van Hollen
Warner
Warnock
Warren
Welch
Whitehouse
Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Curtis Sheehy Tillis

The motion was agreed to.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO "MILES CITY FIELD OFFICE RECORD OF DECISION AND APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT"

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MOODY). The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 104) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Miles City Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, we are now approaching day seven of the government shutdown. The Republicans control the House. They control the Senate. They control the White House. They run the government, and they have the responsibility to keep the government open.

And in that light, it might be a good idea and a radical idea, but in the midst of the crises that we are facing, it really might be nice for Speaker JOHNSON to actually bring House Members back to Washington after their 18-day vacation.

The American people are nervous about this shutdown. Federal employees are deeply disturbed. People are frightened. Republicans in the House should return to work.

As we all know, Senate rules require a 60-vote majority in order to pass a budget—60 votes. And that means that passing a budget requires bipartisan support. That is why, decades ago, the rules were established. It is very rare that one party has more than 60 votes.

So if you need 60 votes, it means that you have to compromise; you have to negotiate.

When Democrats were in power, they had to work with Republicans to get the 60 votes. When Republicans, in the past, were in power, they had to work with Democrats to get the 60 votes. That is the way it worked.

But not now. This time around, the Republicans have refused to negotiate.

Basically, what they are saying is it is their way or the highway, take it or leave it. So within that context of Republicans refusing to negotiate, what is the shutdown about? What are the major issues that separate the parties?

Well, it is not complicated. As everybody in America knows, our healthcare system today is broken; it is dysfunctional; it is cruel. We are the wealthiest country in the history of the world, but we are the only major country not to guarantee healthcare to all people as a human right.

And, in fact, our healthcare outcomes are worse, in most cases, than other major countries. It is a broken system.

Today, in the richest country on Earth, 85 million Americans are uninsured or underinsured, and that results in some 60,000 Americans dying every single year, unnecessarily, because they can't afford to go to a doctor.

We pay the highest prices in the world for healthcare. It is unbelievable and unsustainable. We are now spending over \$14,000 for every man, woman, and child. When you throw in Medicare, Medicaid, employer-covered healthcare, individual costs—over \$14,000. That is insane, almost twice as much as other countries around the world.

We pay, by far, the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs. One out of four Americans can't afford to go and fill the prescription their doctors write. In America today, in our great country, we don't have enough doctors. People all over America—Vermont and all over America—have to wait months to get in to see a specialist. We don't have enough nurses—massive nursing shortage. We don't have enough dentists. We don't have enough mental health counselors. And our life expectancy—how long we live—is substantially lower than other major countries, despite the fact that we spend so much more.

Now, given that reality, given that our healthcare system is broken, one might think that the issue we are debating today is, How do we improve it? How do we make sure that in America we appreciate healthcare as a human right? Which it is. How do we guarantee healthcare to every man, woman, and child in a cost-effective way?

In my view, that is moving toward a Medicare for All, single-payer system. If other people got ideas, bring them forward. Healthcare is a human right.

But that is not the debate we are having now. The debate we are having now is not how we improve a broken healthcare system but how we prevent a broken healthcare system from becoming even worse. And I will tell you, as the ranking member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, somebody who has studied this issue for a while, I feel very much that if we do not stop Trump's attack on the American healthcare system, the entire system could collapse.

We are on the verge of that right now. People can't afford healthcare.

People can't find doctors. People can't find mental health counselors. People can't afford prescription drugs. We have a drug epidemic. We are on the verge of collapse.

What this debate is about in Florida, in Vermont, and all over this country is, if the Republicans get their way and if Democrats cave in, health insurance premiums will double for over 20 million people on the Affordable Care Act. Yes, you heard right—20 million people will see a doubling of their healthcare premiums. You can't afford healthcare now? Of course, you can't. It is outrageously high.

That is not BERNIE SANDERS talking. That is the Kaiser Family Foundation study. That is one of the most conservative Members, Republican Members, of the House, MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE, making that point. A doubling of health insurance premiums.

Does any Member of the U.S. Senate want to go home to their district and explain why you are going to double premiums?

It is not just raising the outrageous cost of healthcare in America even higher, as a result of Trump's Big Beautiful Bill, 15 million Americans are going to be thrown off of the healthcare they have because Trump and the Republicans made the largest cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act in American history.

Let us be very clear. These cuts not only impact 15 million Americans—that would be a tragedy unto itself—they will devastate nursing homes.

Right now, the situation on nursing homes in Vermont and I expect many other States in this country is a disaster. They are understaffed. Nursing homes, in an aging society, are shutting down. Where will people who are old and can't take care of themselves, who are disabled—what happens to them if the nursing home industry collapses in America?

Community health centers are something that I have worked on for many years to increase funding. Over 32 million people access community health centers. They provide primary health care, dental care, mental health counseling, lower cost prescription drugs. They will suffer enormously, cut back on services, and perhaps shut down because of that legislation if we do not deal with that.

Rural hospitals. Republicans say: Oh, we put \$50 billion into rural hospitals.

Yes, but you cut \$150 billion. All over this country, rural hospitals are teetering on the edge. Many of them have already closed down over the years. So if you live in rural America—the State of Vermont—and you want a hospital nearby? Well, that hospital may not be there.

Now, why did Trump and the Republicans make these massive cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act? The answer is not complicated. It was important for them to provide \$1 trillion to the top 1 percent—\$1 trillion. Massive cuts to healthcare; \$1 trillion in tax breaks to the 1 percent.

Let me make the very radical suggestion that Elon Musk, who is now worth some \$500 billion, does not need another tax break. Today, we have more income and wealth inequality than we have ever had in the history of America. Musk himself owns more wealth than the bottom 52 percent of American households. The top 1 percent owns more wealth than the bottom 93 percent. Never before have we seen such income and wealth disparity.

Republicans said “We are going to massively cut Medicaid, ACA” in order to give tax breaks to the richest people in America.

But the issue that we are debating is not just healthcare, as enormously important as that is; what we are talking about is whether we are going to allow our country to move toward an authoritarian society run by a President who is a megalomaniac, who wants more and more power in his own hands, who does not respect the rule of law or the Constitution of the United States of America.

It is not acceptable to me that our President is putting Federal troops on city streets throughout America without a request from a Governor or a mayor, trying to create provocations, trying to create disturbances so he can use military force against the American people.

We cannot allow masked ICE agents to snatch people off of our streets without due process.

We cannot continue to allow President Trump to undermine the Constitution and the rule of law by refusing to spend money appropriated by Congress. Unbelievable.

The President says: Well, money was appropriated to States that committed a terrible crime.

Do you know what their crime was? They voted against Donald Trump. And in this world right now, I guess if a State votes against Trump, maybe they are not going to get the Federal money that was appropriated, whether it is Vermont, New York, New Jersey, or other States.

Is that really what the United States of America is about? A President says: You voted against me. You are not going to get your tax dollars back in Federal investments.

According to every poll that I have seen, the American people by huge numbers do not want to see a doubling of their healthcare premiums. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, 78 percent of Americans, including 59 percent of Republicans, want to extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits, and the polling numbers are equally high or almost as high on making sure that people are not thrown off of Medicaid.

Tony Fabrizio, who is President Trump's own pollster—not just a general pollster; he is the pollster for the President. This is what he said:

By broad bipartisan margins, voters want to see the [ACA] tax credits extended rather than expire at the end of the year, whether

in the context of premiums doubling or 5 million families losing their health insurance. This includes solid majorities of Trump voters and swing voters.

That is the Republican pollster.

Right now in the House, to the best of my knowledge, there are at least 14 Republicans in a very tightly controlled caucus who want to see the ACA tax credits extended. Here in the Senate, there is at least one Republican Senator who understands that in his State, his people cannot afford a doubling of premiums. My strong feeling is that there are many, many other Republicans who are not excited about going home and explaining to their constituents why their premiums are doubling.

As the ranking member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, I asked people across the country in the last few days what these healthcare cuts that the Republicans are pushing would mean for them. We just sent out emails, and we have gotten many, many, many hundreds of responses.

We asked them: What would a doubling of healthcare premiums mean to your life and your family? What would it mean if you were one of the 15 million Americans thrown off of healthcare through cuts in Medicaid? What would it mean to you if the rural hospital near you shut down because of these Medicaid cuts?

In less than a week, we received responses—many hundreds—from 42 States and the District of Columbia. Today, we are releasing a report that describes the devastating human impact of the Republican budget and its massive cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. Here is just some of what we found:

People are afraid that they could get sicker or even die.

Laura—won't give her last name—from Wisconsin said:

I live in fear of whether or not I will be able to afford my life saving treatment. I have a rare kidney disease that requires immunotherapy every 9 months. I'm terrified I'll die.

We got a lot of those—people who are dealing with very serious illnesses who, in fact, will die. They will die if they cannot afford health insurance, and they will not be able to afford health insurance if their premiums double or if they are thrown off of Medicaid.

But it is not just the fear that people will die or get sicker because they lack healthcare; all over this country, working-class Americans will not be able to afford the food they need, pay their rent or their mortgage or their healthcare.

Brittanie from Utah writes:

I'm already living paycheck to paycheck. I have insurance for myself and my two sons. Just bought a house that we can barely afford.

So she is hanging on the edge. If she has to pay more for healthcare, maybe she loses her house.

Sebastian from Colorado writes:

I don't make enough to afford rent and food and health insurance. Only 2 of those things do I need to survive. These cuts make it even more impossible to turn things around and get a handle on health issues.

In other words, 60 percent of our people are living paycheck to paycheck. Today, they can't afford housing. Today, they can't afford childcare. Today, they can't afford good-quality food for their kids. Today, they can't afford to send their kids to college. Double healthcare premiums, and these families are going to be in disastrous shape.

Cara from Vermont said that she “was shocked by warning about the loss of the advanced federal subsidy. Rather than a premium of \$100 [a] month, I could be paying more than \$1,200 [a] month or 35 percent of my income, and that's before deductibles and copays.”

By the way, when we talk about a doubling of health insurance premiums, that is on average. Some people will pay less; some people will pay a lot more.

Small business owners are concerned they will have to shut down.

Joe from Pennsylvania writes:

I am a small business owner and if my health care costs continue to rise, I will be forced to close my business and look for a job, if I can find one.

Patricia from rural California writes:

If our local clinics and hospitals close, as they are likely to do with federal funding disappearing along with health insurance becoming unaffordable, people will die.

She is right.

On average, healthcare premiums will double, but here is what happens when it is not average. If you are living in Virginia, your premiums could go up from less than \$650 a month today to nearly \$2,200 a month next year—\$650 to \$2,200. That is not a doubling, it is almost a quadrupling of what you are paying. If you live in Idaho, your premiums could go up from \$283 a month to \$407 a month. If you live in the State of Georgia, your family could see their premiums go up from \$940 a month today to over \$4,000 a month.

At a time when people today cannot afford healthcare, the idea of doubling, tripling healthcare premiums is insane. It is unacceptable. No Member of the U.S. Senate should support that.

So, no, I am not going to go back to Vermont and tell the people there that I have thrown 15 million Americans off the healthcare that they have at a time when studies indicate that would mean that tens and tens of thousands of people will die as a result. I am not going to do that.

And I am not going to vote for a healthcare situation which doubles premiums for 20 million Americans.

So we are where we are right now. And the time is now when the U.S. Congress has got to look beyond their campaign contributors, has got to look beyond the oligarchs that fund their campaigns, and has got to begin standing up for ordinary Americans.

Our job is to improve a broken healthcare system and guarantee healthcare to all. Our job is not to throw 15 million people off healthcare and double premiums for more than 20 million, to shutter nursing homes, community health centers, and rural hospitals. The choice is clear. Let us stand with the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S.J. Res. 77 and S.J. Res. 81

Ms. LUMMIS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding rule XXII, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, following consultation with the Democratic leader, no later than Friday, October 31, it be in order to discharge the Committee on Finance of S.J. Res. 77 and S.J. Res. 81, individually, and when discharged, the Senate proceed to its consideration; further, that there be up to 6 hours for debate only on each joint resolution, with the time equally divided between the leaders or their designees; and that following the use or yielding back of that time, each joint resolution be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on the resolution.

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2983

Ms. LUMMIS. Madam President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2983) to reauthorize the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015.

Ms. LUMMIS. Madam President, I now ask for a second reading, and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Ms. LUMMIS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions,

which are at the desk: S. Res. 440 and S. Res. 441.

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

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

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025

Ms. LUMMIS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 8; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate resume consideration of H.J. Res. 104; further, that all time on H.J. Res. 104 be expired at 11:20 a.m. tomorrow, the joint resolution be read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution; finally, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motion with respect to Executive Calendar No. 459 ripen at 2:15 p.m. tomorrow.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate October 7, 2025:

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

PAUL ATKINS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2031.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

JAMES BAEHR, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

PATRICK DAVID DAVIS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LEAH CAMPOS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

BRANDON JUDD, OF IDAHO, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE.

JOSEPH POPOLO, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

CATHERINE JEREZA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (ELECTRICITY).

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NED MAMULA, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DAVID FINK, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PIERRE GENTIN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

DAVID FOGEL, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICE.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DEVON WESTHILL, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

KIRSTEN BAESLER, OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

WAYNE PALMER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH.

JULIE HOCKER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR.

FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

MARCO RAJKOVICH, JR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 30, 2030.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

JOHN BUSTERUD, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

STANLEY WOODWARD, JR., OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

JANET DHILLON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

DAVID KEELING, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

KIMBERLY RICHEY, OF TEXAS, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JONATHAN BERRY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE SOLICITOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

ANDREW ROGERS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MARC ANDERSEN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY.

MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

JAMES WOODRUFF II, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2032.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

KEVIN RHODES, OF FLORIDA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR FOR FEDERAL PROCUREMENT POLICY.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

USHA-MARIA TURNER, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

JOHN DEVER, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

JOSEPH BARLOON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE (GENEVA OFFICE), WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

BRIAN MORRISSEY, JR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

CRAIG TRAINOR, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

FRANCIS BROOKE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DAVID PETERS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE .

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MARY RILEY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LEGISLATION AND CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

BRIAN CHRISTINE, OF ALABAMA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

JONATHAN SNARE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 27, 2029.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

DAVID BRIAN CASTILLO, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

DAVID BARKER, OF IOWA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

BRITTANY PANUCCIO, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2029.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MICHAEL BOREN, OF IDAHO, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

AUDREY ROBERTSON, OF COLORADO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY).

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

LANNY ERDOS, OF OHIO, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

TAYLOR JORDAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

DEREK BARRS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL RUTHERFORD, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION.

GREGORY ZERZAN, OF TEXAS, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

CHRISTOPHER FOX, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ALEX ADAMS, OF IDAHO, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FAMILY SUPPORT, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

JONATHAN MCKERNAN, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MACON HUGHES, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

PHILIP WEINBERG, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

TIMOTHY JOHN WALSH, OF COLORADO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT).

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

GUSTAV CHIARELLO III, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

MICHAEL STUART, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WILLIAM KIRKLAND, OF GEORGIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

LAURA SWETT, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2030.

DAVID LACERTE, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2026.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ARCH CAPITO, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DAVID DUNAVANT, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

MATTHEW HARVEY, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

JOHN HEEKIN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

LEIF OLSON, OF IOWA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

ADAM SLEEPER, OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DAVID TOEPFER, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

KURT ALME, OF MONTANA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA, FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

NICHOLAS CHASE, OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF NORTH DAKOTA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

BART MCKAY DAVIS, OF IDAHO, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DAVID METCALF, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

LESLEY MURPHY, OF NEBRASKA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

RONALD A. PARSONS, JR., OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

KURT WALL, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DAVID CHARLES WATERMAN, OF IOWA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DANIEL ROSEN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SOMERS FARKAS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA.

NICOLE MCGRAW, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA.

LEANDRO RIZZUTO, OF FLORIDA, TO BE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

HERSCHEL WALKER, OF GEORGIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS.

STACEY FEINBERG, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG.

KENNETH HOWERY, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK.

RICHARD BUCHAN III, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO.

BILL BAZZI, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA.

LYNDA BLANCHARD, OF ALABAMA, TO BE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

HOWARD BRODIE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND.

ARTHUR FISHER, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA.

MELINDA HILDEBRAND, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA.

MICHEL ISSA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC.

NICHOLAS MERRICK, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC.

ROMAN PIPKO, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA.

THOMAS ROSE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND.

WILLIAM WHITE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM.

JOHN GIORDANO, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA.

ANJANI SINHA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE.

SEAN O'NEILL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND.

JULIE STUFFT, OF OHIO, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN.

DAN NEGREA, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

SERGIO GOR, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA.

STEPHANIE HALLETT, OF FLORIDA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN.

JAMES HOLTSNIDER, OF IOWA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN.

JACOB HELBERG, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE (ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT).

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION

BENJAMIN BLACK, OF NEW YORK, TO BE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THOMAS DINANNO, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ARMS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY.

PAUL KAPUR, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS.

SARAH ROGERS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.

MICHAEL DESOMBRE, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS).

RILEY BARNES, OF TEXAS, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND LABOR.

TODD WILCOX, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (DIPLOMATIC SECURITY).

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NEIL JACOBS, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERE.