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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 2 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful Father of us all, today, remind our lawmakers of the judgment day story in Matthew 25. In that story, You asked six questions of humanity: Did you feed the hungry? Did you clothe the naked? Did you give water to the thirsty? Did you visit the sick? Did you minister to the incarcerated? Did you care for the strangers in your midst?

As our Senators, during this government shutdown, play the game of legislative tug-of-war, may they remember these six judgment day questions.

Lord, may we all hear in these judgment day questions the cries of the friendless, helpless, and powerless.

We pray in Your righteous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

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

The Senator from Iowa.

NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, since 1993, Congress has adopted a resolution to recognize this third week of October as National Character Counts Week, and, of course, we are in that week right now.

As Iowa's senior U.S. Senator, I am proud to sponsor the resolution and share that the global headquarters for the Character Counts organization is located in my home State. The Robert D. and Billie Ray Center is located at Drake University.

By the way, Bob Ray was Iowa's Governor for 14 years. So the location in Des Moines makes perfect sense to me because Iowa's values align with the six pillars of character promoted by the national Character Counts organization. These include trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

Throughout my public service, I have strived to improve civic engagement and bridge divisions through respectful dialogue. Part of that effort includes my annual 99 county meetings, where I meet with Iowans face to face. No topic is off limit, and Iowans set the agenda.

Each year, the Drake University Ray Center celebrates "Iowa Character

Awards" to recognize those who embody civic values. The people of Spencer, IA, will receive the "Community Character Award" of 2025 in recognition of their efforts to recover from devastating floods the summer of last year.

Like the courageous first responders from 9/11, emergency response teams from across Northwest Iowa pitched in to help the people of Spencer. They didn't stop to consider creed, race, gender, or political affiliation. They were only concerned about those who had the needs caused by the devastating flood. So they simply rolled up their sleeves, and they simply pulled together, neighbors helping neighbors. And, of course, that is the Iowa way.

History tells us how important it is for elected leaders to govern by virtue. At the Virginia ratifying convention, debating whether or not Virginia should ratify the new Constitution, James Madison said:

"To suppose that any form of government will secure liberty or happiness without any virtue in the people, is a chimerical idea."

The American people who elected us are counting on us to live by those standards. National Character Counts Week is a good time to do what is right.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

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



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LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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 motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, you have to give the Democrats credit for one thing, and that is a healthy dose of gall. Both the House and Senate Democrat leaders were out last week and claiming that they can't fund the government until—get this—we solve the “Republican healthcare crisis.”

That is right—“the Republican healthcare crisis.” It is truly amazing how a program Democrats created and tax credits that they chose to sunset have now become the Republicans’ crisis. Republicans, in fact, never had anything to do with it. Democrats created Obamacare—alone. They implemented the enhanced tax credits—alone. And they chose a sunset date for those tax credits—alone.

Democrats are solely, solely responsible for the Obamacare tax credit cliff, and yet they are trying to pin this disaster on Republicans, while at the very same time, they are asking Republicans to bail them out. It is really kind of ironic. Democrats may not win a lot of points for truthfulness, but you have to give them credit for gall.

While Democrats may have created this healthcare situation, I have made it clear, from the beginning, that Republicans are willing to have a discussion about how to address it. In fact, I am perfectly willing to guarantee Democrats a vote. But none of that is going to happen until Democrats reopen the government.

We are not going to negotiate on anything until Democrats stop holding government funding hostage. And if they really want to address their Obamacare mess, they should stop running out the clock on a deal. All they are doing by that action is keeping the government shut down and enhancing—enhancing, believe it or not—the chances this situation doesn't get fixed because the clock is running.

Before I leave the subject of healthcare, I do have to mention the irony that, while Democrats claim they are defending Americans’ healthcare, their shutdown has actually suspended valuable healthcare services for a lot of Americans. Medicare and rural patients are currently dealing with the elimination of telehealth services, thanks to the government shutdown.

Telehealth, of course, increases the accessibility of care and lets those who live far from medical treatment, or

who otherwise struggle to travel, to conduct prescription refill appointments or other visits from the comfort of their home. But that assistance is currently being denied to them thanks to the Democrats’ shutdown.

But I am not sure why I am talking about shutdown costs. Democrats have made it very clear that they don't care about the costs of the shutdown—to anyone.

Democrats used to care, of course, or so they claimed. In fact, I could fill a book with Democrat quotes on how shutdowns harm hard-working Americans.

But over the past 3 weeks, it has become clear that Democrats’ previous concerns had more to do with politics than with principle. Democrats were against shutdowns when it served their purposes, and now that it serves their purposes—or so they think—to keep the government closed, they are all for shutdowns, no matter how many Americans have to suffer in the process.

I have talked about healthcare today, and Democrats would definitely like Americans to think that that is what this shutdown is about. But, of course, the biggest driver of this shutdown is not healthcare or any other issue. It is the Democrats’ far-left base.

Leftwing activists demanded a showdown with President Trump, and Democrats fell in line. That is why you see the Democrat leader, who actually voted to fund the government in the spring, leading the shutdown brigade this time around.

Far-left groups were rallying this weekend, and the Democrat leader and other Democrat Senators were out paying homage. And if these same leftwing groups have their way, Democrats will be keeping up the shutdown for a long time to come. They don't really care about a solution. This is about politics.

For the sake of the American people, let's hope that there are some Democrat Senators who will eventually put the needs of their constituents over the demands of their far-left base and work with Republicans to pass the clean, nonpartisan funding measure that is sitting right here in front of us today. And when passed, it will be sent to the President and signed into law, and this government will open up again.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we enter another week of Donald Trump's government shutdown, and Republicans seem happy not to work, happy not to negotiate, happy to let

healthcare premiums spike for over 20 million working and middle-class Americans.

Our country is staring down the barrel of a healthcare catastrophe, and Republicans will spend this week either vacationing or holding pep rallies at the White House. It has been over a month since the House of Representatives even took a single rollcall vote. That is shameful. That is derelict. Government workers must work without getting paid; House Republicans get paid without working.

What about the Democrats? Our position remains the same: We want to end the shutdown as soon as we can and fix the ACA premium crisis that looms over 20 million hard-working Americans and many tens of millions more whose premiums will also go up.

Look, the ACA premium crisis is not a fix-it-later issue like Republicans keep pretending it is. It is a fix-it-now issue because, very soon, Americans are going to have to make some really difficult choices about which healthcare plan they choose for next year. When they see the increase in the number of dollars that these premiums will cost them because the tax credits expired—\$500 a month; \$600 a month; \$1,000 a month; for older couples, over \$20,000 a year—they are going to have to make an awful choice: Do I cut out healthcare altogether and be left alone or do I cut back on everything else to afford a healthcare plan? Do I have to look for a new plan with different doctors, different hospitals, higher copays, higher premiums?

Every American, just about every American—so many Americans, tens of millions—are going to have to start making that choice in the next month.

Health insurance prices under the ACA are now available in about a dozen States, and Americans in those States are already seeing with their own eyes the horrifying truth, what we have been warning about for months; that multiple millions of people are going to pay tens of thousands of dollars more for healthcare so vital to Americans.

When you are in a family and you know you can't provide healthcare for them or a much reduced healthcare and you look at your spouse, you look at your kids, and you say: What am I going to do if they get sick, what a frightening experience for people that Republicans are putting America through, all because they want to cut all of this healthcare, cut Medicaid, cut so much else in healthcare to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy.

It is just perverse. It is inside out. It is upside down.

And let's be clear about who will get hurt if these tax credits expire. Republicans have been lying about that too. If the ACA premium tax credits expire, the majority of people who will pay more out of pocket are working and middle-class families. In fact, the majority of people who benefit from the expiring tax credits live in Republican districts.

The State of Louisiana, home of Speaker JOHNSON, is one of the States about to suffer most.

I read an article last week from CNBC that said:

ACA enhanced subsidy lapse could hit early retirees hardest.

Middle-class couples in their fifties and early sixties who are too young to qualify for Medicare face the largest dollar increase in premium payments. One Idaho couple interviewed by CNBC will see their premiums spike not by 50 percent, not by 100 percent, but 300 percent—\$15,000 more a year just to have health insurance. That is what financial ruin looks like.

In fact, if these tax credits expire, older Americans could end up spending 30 percent of their income just on healthcare premiums. Can you imagine? What kind of country do we live in? What kind of party is this Republican Party that is unwilling to solve this problem which is staring Americans in the face, frightening Americans from one end of the country to the other? Yet what are Republicans doing about it? Nothing. They are on vacation. It is unacceptable and morally repugnant.

Democrats are demanding nothing more or less than what the overwhelming majority of Americans already want. Even a majority of MAGA voters want it. Fifty-eight percent of those who voted for Trump say renew the tax credits into next year.

Americans want to keep their healthcare costs low and avoid financial ruin. Americans want to see the government reopen as soon as possible. Democrats agree. We are at the ready. We want to get past this crisis. But Republicans need to wake up from whatever dream they are in because fixing the ACA will require them to take action.

ECONOMY

Mr. President, on the economy, Republicans like to talk about eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse. Well, they can start by looking at Secretary Kristi Noem's expense report. This weekend, the New York Times reported that the Department of Homeland Security has purchased not one but two private jets—luxury jets—for Kristi Noem to the tune of \$172 million in taxpayer dollars. The administration says these are G700 aircraft. That is one of the biggest private planes there is. And they say they were purchased for safety reasons. Kristi Noem and the administration say these G700 aircraft were purchased for safety reasons. That is like saying they bought a Rolls Royce to get good seatbelts. This just shows you how much contempt this administration has for people struggling to make ends meet.

Let's be very clear. At a time when Americans are paying more for groceries, falling behind on car payments, seeing their electricity rates go up and up and up, Secretary Noem thinks it is a good use of taxpayer dollars to buy two jets known for having “the most

spacious cabin in the industry.” What ever happened to the Kristi Noem who said that any expense at DHS over \$100,000 needed her personal approval? Apparently, she wanted more leeway for flying.

This would all be perhaps a little more amusing if it wasn't so insulting to the American people, because while Donald Trump's Cabinet Secretaries get their private jets, the American people are getting higher healthcare premiums, higher grocery costs, and a worsening job market.

Let me just show this chart with a list of awful headlines about the economy just from the last week or so.

From NBC:

U.S. consumers bearing more than half the cost of tariffs so far, Goldman Sachs says.

In the Wall Street Journal:

Grocery Prices Keep Rising. Frustrated Consumers are Trying to Adapt.

MarketWatch:

High inflation and lack of jobs leave Americans frustrated with the economy.

Those are headlines from last week.

Let me get this straight. Americans pay 90 percent of the cost of Donald Trump's tariffs for more groceries, they see fewer jobs, and now the American people have to pay for two top-tier, private, luxury jets for Kristi Noem.

If you want to know how much contempt Donald Trump has and how much contempt his MAGA administration has for working people, look no further than Noem's luxury jets.

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

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

CHICAGO

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last Friday, I went back to the city of Chicago, which I am honored to represent, and over the weekend, I had two experiences I want to share with you. There was a real contrast, but there was a recurring theme in both.

The first was at a church in the city of Chicago on Friday, the Christ Lutheran Church. It is on Wilson Avenue in a section of Chicago known as Albany Park. The church was built in 1911. You look around at the houses outside of the church, and you think: This neighborhood has seen a lot of change, a lot of different people who have come through with waves of immigration. Today, it is predominantly Hispanic, but I would imagine that the march of history would take you through many other groups who have lived in the Albany Park neighborhood.

The pastor there is named Tom Terrell. I was meeting him for the first time. We had a press conference inside his little church, and he told us a story

of what had happened at his church, Christ Lutheran Church, on the previous Sunday. There aren't as many people in his church as there were just a few months ago because a lot of them are too afraid. They are Hispanic families. They are afraid, if they go to their church, they might be detained or arrested or that something else terrible might happen, but some brave souls made it to the Christ Lutheran Church on that Sunday.

Pastor Terrell told us this story: At the end of the ceremony, at 12 noon, the people were leaving, heading home, walking away from church, when an unmarked van pulled up, and ICE agents came out of it and started to ask questions of the people who had just come out of church. It was noticed in the neighborhood, what is now becoming more common in Chicago. The neighbors started coming out with whistles. They were standing on their front porches and blowing whistles because the ICE agents were intimidating these people who were just leaving church.

Eventually, enough people started blowing whistles that the ICE agents decided to tear gas the people coming out of church. They threw the tear gas canisters and got in their van and left. Going to church on Sunday, in Albany Park, in the city of Chicago, was an opportunity for an ICE raid. That is what is happening in the city of Chicago. It is not confined to that neighborhood. It is happening there and in the surrounding suburbs.

Are the people afraid? You bet they are. They are afraid of what is going to happen to them and their families. The stories come pouring in one after the other.

Remember how we got started in this conversation? Remember when the President said at his rallies, over and over again, that we are going after rapists, terrorists, murderers, those who are criminally insane, and those who are predators of children? They came into this country illegally, and they are not going to stay.

Well, Christ Lutheran Church was not the place to visit if you were looking for those categories. Those people there were not guilty of any crime other than going to church. If that is a crime in the eyes of some, it certainly isn't in my eyes. That is the reality, as 70 percent of the people who are being detained and arrested in the city of Chicago have no criminal record—no criminal record. Yet they are being intimidated. The restaurants in many parts of the city are not what they used to be. People are not going shopping. They are afraid to go outside at all. That is the reality.

My second experience this week in Chicago is on the same theme.

On Saturday, an estimated 7 million Americans across this country took to the streets, peacefully, with a singular message to President Trump and his enablers: We have no Kings in the United States. That included 100,000

people in Chicago, and I was proud to be one of them. That is the frontline, as we know, of the President's assault on our democracy, our civil liberties, and our rule of law. Now, I have been in Congress for four decades, so believe me when I say that the turnout at this march was the largest that I have ever seen at any political gathering. It was amazing.

The President is trying to tell the world that it is unsafe to be in the city of Chicago. Well, the weekend before this, we had our 53,000 runners in the Chicago Marathon, with tens of thousands of supporters and families cheering them on. They weren't afraid to be in Chicago, and neither was I.

On this last Saturday, this gathering of people in the city of Chicago—with out violence, expressing themselves as Americans, disagreeing with our government, which is part of democracy—was a peaceful gathering by and large. I joined the march in the city of Chicago and carried the sign that read "Hands off Chicago," and I meant it.

Chicago is a great city. It faces challenges, but all cities face challenges. These challenges must be addressed with solutions that are consistent with our American values. This President is abusing his power by fueling this cruel immigration raid policy in unleashing the military, bringing in National Guard men and women from the State of Texas against immigrants and citizens alike.

Don't believe me? I will show you.

The President claims his actions are meant to round up "the worst of the worst," but that has been anything but the case. A few weeks ago, Chicago and the Nation watched in horror as women and children—immigrants and U.S. citizens alike—were dragged from their homes in the South Shore of Chicago and detained with the use of zip ties. Imagine your child being rousted out of bed in the middle of the night when the front door of your apartment is crashed down and that child is taken downstairs, separated from his mother and father, with a zip tie holding his hands together. When one witness complained that these children were being mistreated, I am sorry to tell you that the person from ICE said: "F— them kids."

Then, just last week, ProPublica reported that, in the first 9 months of the Trump administration, ICE held over 170 American citizens across the country—kicking, dragging, beating, and detaining some of them for days. Let me repeat: They were American citizens.

Take Maria Greeley, a Chicagoan and U.S. citizen detained by Federal agents earlier this month in Chicago. She showed them her passport, but they zip-tied her and held her for hours because she "didn't look like someone named Greeley."

Let me give you another example. On October 3, Juan Munoz, a trustee for the township of Oak Park in Illinois, stood with protesters outside of the

ICE Broadview processing facility along with other elected officials. Federal agents picked him out of the crowd, shoved him to the ground, and arrested him, while they left his colleagues alone. They held him for 8 hours. Why did they hold Juan Munoz for that long and not his colleagues? He was a person of color.

Does this sound like the work of an administration set on reducing violent crime? I think not. This cruelty is all for show.

While Americans continue to pay inflated prices at the checkout aisle and face the prospect of skyrocketing healthcare premium costs, this is what our President is focusing on.

We the people stood up this weekend to the President's abuses of power. I hope the Supreme Court, when the time comes, will do the same.

The Founders of this Nation designed the Constitution to protect generations of Americans from the very abuses we are watching unfold before our eyes today. They understood the dangers of a military turned against its own people and limited its role in civilian affairs.

President Trump's claims of so-called invasions, rebellions, or emergencies to justify calling the military into American cities like Chicago are baseless. They are simply attempts to bypass laws and the checks and balances of the Constitution.

Judges in Portland, OR, and Chicago, IL, appointed by Presidents of both political parties, have agreed.

In upholding a ruling temporarily barring the deployment of troops in Chicago, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals concluded:

[T]he facts do not justify the President's actions in Illinois. . . . Political opposition is not rebellion.

In fact, the court noted that the Department of Homeland Security itself claims that the protests have not slowed down their operations and that ICE has increased its deportations and arrests.

Political opposition, peaceful protests, and even nonviolent civil disobedience are not rebellion; they are the bedrocks of our democracy. If there are legitimate concerns with maintaining law and order, protecting public safety, and controlling crime, the Constitution preserves the power to address that for the States, not the Federal Government.

Whether in Chicago, Portland, Los Angeles, Memphis, or the District of Columbia, it is civilian authorities—State and local law enforcement—that have the primary responsibility for enforcing the law.

I am glad to see Federal judges, including judges appointed by President Trump himself, upholding their constitutional responsibility to interpret the law and apply it to the facts.

It is no surprise that President Trump is now asking the Supreme Court's conservative supermajority to green light his abusive power and allow

him to deploy troops regardless of statutory limits or the actual facts on the ground.

The Supreme Court should reject the President's petition. There is no emergency that would justify bypassing the regular appeals process and resolving this case on the Court's shadow docket, without the full public scrutiny that it deserves.

My warning to my Republican colleagues is this: DURBIN of Illinois is standing on the floor of the Senate today telling you what is happening to the State and people I love to represent. If the President is allowed to send the military against his own citizens in Chicago without regard to the laws enacted by Congress, what guardrails are left to prevent him from doing it to you in your home State, to the people that you are proud to represent here in the Senate?

We cannot sit idly by while a person who wants to be King takes us down a path to authoritarianism.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The Senator from Texas.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, today is the 20th day of the Schumer shutdown, and people around the country are beginning to feel the effects of the shutdown. For example, here, nearly all Federal employees from government Agencies to those working here in the Senate Chamber will have missed their first paycheck.

One out of every six Americans lives from paycheck to paycheck. It is not uncommon. This means that this shutdown is preventing those individuals from paying their basic expenses: food, shelter, clothing, utilities.

Normally, Americans who aren't able to put food on the table for themselves and their families can fall back on government programs, should they qualify. However, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recently sent a letter to the States, including Texas, announcing they will not be able to continue funding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, due to the lapse in congressional appropriations.

According to Federal law, food programs like SNAP and WIC—the Women, Infants, and Children Program—may continue to operate even during the shutdown, as long as funds are available. But once those funds are dried up, it is simply not possible for them to continue providing benefits.

The guidance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture directs States to pause those payments for the program. This means that Texans who rely upon SNAP as a safety net to buy their groceries and feed their children will not have those benefits until this deranged shutdown comes to an end.

During the negotiations on the One Big Beautiful Bill—the working families tax cut act—I was happy to champion certain reforms to ensure that those benefits were targeted on the

truly poor and vulnerable. Chief among those reforms were enhanced eligibility verification and work requirements for able-bodied adults, ensuring that those who can work do work in order to continue to receive benefits.

Throughout those negotiations, Democrats accused Republicans of taking food from the mouths of the poor and needy. But, of course, this is not what we did with the One Big Beautiful Bill at all. The reforms we implemented in the One Big Beautiful Bill ensured that these programs were financially secure for the long haul so we can continue to provide those benefits for those who truly need them.

But, now, Senate Democrats have voted nine times against a House-passed, short-term funding bill that would immediately reopen the government, and, now, they are preventing these programs from operating at all. So what Democrats falsely accused Republicans of just a few weeks back, they themselves are doing by forcing these programs to end or to pause.

Senate Democrats are literally taking food from the mouths of hungry children. These programs are designed to ensure that those who have come across hard times are able to get the food they need for themselves and their children, and, now, Senate Democrats are the reason why Texans, particularly those in need, are unable to do so now.

But that is not all. This shutdown is creating a particularly severe consequence for rural health clinics across America, many of which are unable to continue their full telehealth services to patients during the shutdown.

One of my constituents wrote in to say:

Not being able to offer telehealth has put us at a huge disadvantage with patients. There are many who will seek care elsewhere and some who won't seek care at all.

One of the only good things that come out of COVID-19 is the expansion of access to telehealth, and, now, because of the shutdown, Democrats are denying patients that need that access—denying them that access altogether.

This constituent that I mentioned a moment ago, which I quoted, described immunocompromised Texans who were discharged from the hospital who require followup appointments, but the risk of infection from other patients in the waiting room makes it actually too risky for them to appear in the hospital in person. Telehealth appointments are a good solution for such patients, but due to the shutdown, they are simply not available.

For other patients who live in rural areas or who are homebound from severe illnesses, telehealth could be the difference between receiving care and receiving no care.

My office recently heard a devastating story about one such patient in a Texas hospital who has stage IV cancer and who has missed his last two appointments. This individual lives 45

minutes from care—in the Panhandle, in North Texas—and is a model patient for telehealth. But thanks to Senate Democrats, that is no longer an option for him.

Imagine the devastation of having a loved one suffer from late-stage cancer and knowing that this person is missing out on access to healthcare because of the Schumer shutdown. It is simply indefensible. And these are real people, real patients, and real Texans.

Now, this government shutdown may not affect the Democratic leader or some Members of Congress who are independently well off, but for those people who depend on these services and live paycheck to paycheck, it has real-world consequences. This government shutdown is, in other words, not a game, and yet Senate Democrats refuse to treat this matter with the seriousness that it deserves.

It has been quoted many times now, but the minority leader has said to the news media:

Every day gets better for us.

Well, clearly, he is not talking about the individuals I have been referring to. I would like to see the minority leader, the Senator from New York, say those words to the cancer patient who is unable to get access to treatment or to telehealth services, or to the family who relies on food stamps who is unable to put groceries on the table to feed their family, or to the Capitol Police officers who provide security in this very building who are not receiving a paycheck.

I can guarantee the Democratic leader that those people will not say to him that every day is getting better. The people who we work for, our constituents, the folks who sent us here, are growing more apprehensive by the day, not knowing when this will end. And while many people simply don't feel the effects of a government shutdown, very real people, like the ones I mentioned, definitely feel this shutdown.

And it doesn't have to be this way. All we have to do, as we have said time and time again, is pass the short-term funding bill that will only take us to November 21. It has already passed the House of Representatives.

Three Democrats in the Senate have joined Republicans in voting to reopen the government. Are there not five more Democrats willing to buck the heartless display of the minority leader and put the American people first, rather than their political party and their political aspirations?

Well, I hope that the cries of those children who are without food and homebound cancer patients without access to healthcare will carry more weight with Senate Democrats than the ruthless partisanship coming from the Democratic leader.

This is called the Schumer shutdown for a reason, because there is, in fact, one person ultimately responsible in this Chamber.

The House has passed the bill. All Republicans are willing to support it, and

we just need a few more Senate Democrats to put an end to this foolishness.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PAUL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. PAUL. I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the cloture motion on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371.

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. PAUL. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 2:20 p.m. tomorrow, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Moe nomination and if cloture is invoked on the Moe nomination, all postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Mercer nomination; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Mercer nomination, all postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Moe nomination at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Mercer nomination at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, no earlier than Wednesday, October 22; further, that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions; finally, that the remaining clotures filed on October 16 ripen at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, on Wednesday, October 22.

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

Mr. PAUL. I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled rollcall begin immediately.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 5371, a bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

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

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 576 Leg.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—7

Curtis	Murkowski	Welch
Duckworth	Sanders	
Fetterman	Tillis	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, and the nays are 43.

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

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the 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, James E. Risch, Tim Sheehy, John Cornyn, Mike Rounds, John R. Curtis, Jim Justice, Katie Boyd Britt, Todd Young, David McCormick, Bill Hagerty, Marsha Blackburn, Rick Scott of Florida, John Barrasso, Kevin Cramer, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Lindsey Graham.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 458.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Bill Lewis, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 458, Bill Lewis, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama.

John Thune, Bernie Moreno, Katie Boyd Britt, Chuck Grassley, James Lankford, Pete Ricketts, Markwayne Mullin, Tim Sheehy, Jon Husted, Eric Schmitt, Jim Justice, James E. Risch, Tom Cotton, Steve Daines, Ted Budd, John R. Curtis, John Boozman.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be

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

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING BY THE HEARTH BOOKSHOP & COFFEEHOUSE

- Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to honor By the Hearth Bookshop & Coffeehouse of Davis County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

After moving to Iowa from Washington State, husband and wife duo Joshua and Kerry Williams founded By the Hearth Bookshop & Coffeehouse in Bloomfield, IA, in 2024. They opened the shop as a warm, inviting space for sharing stories and creating connections. By the Hearth quickly became a place for creativity and conversation. The shop offers a thoughtfully curated selection of books, stationery, gifts, toys, games, and more alongside a cozy coffeehouse serving drinks, sandwiches, and pizzas.

With over two decades of experience in the coffee industry, Joshua envisioned a place where a good book and a great cup of coffee could bring people together. Kerry, a homeschooled mother of four, uses her experience as an educator while serving as the shop's primary buyer and curator. Her passion for children's literature and home learning shines through the store's extensive selection of books and educational tools for readers of all ages. Their son Micah also assists with the business by building their website and other behind-the-scenes work. Together, this small but mighty team of three has created a welcoming space where the Bloomfield community can shop for books, stationery, and gifts while enjoying the menu of coffeehouse offerings. In less than a year, By the Hearth Bookshop & Coffeehouse has become far more than a retail store, it is a gathering place for members of the community. The shop offers weekly children's story times, book clubs, and specialized tutoring sessions, fostering a love of learning and literacy. Its adjoining event center has also become a popular venue for weddings, baby showers, corporate trainings, and outreach programs, while the coffeehouse serves as a favorite local spot for handcrafted beverages, sandwiches, pizzas, and deserts.

The Williams' commitment to service extends beyond their shop's walls. Their space regularly hosts meetings for local organizations such as the Rotary Club, the Optimist Club, and hospital training seminars. Joshua also serves on the board of the Bloomfield

Main Street organization where he chairs the design committee. Most recently, they received Bloomfield Main Street's "Spiffy Biz Award," celebrating businesses that enhance the beauty and vitality of the community. Guided by their motto, "Keep Reading," Joshua and Kerry aim to cultivate not only a love of books but also a sense of belonging and shared purpose. As Joshua describes it, "We wanted to create a space where old friends could meet, and new friends could be discovered." Through hard work, dedication, and a heart for others, Joshua and Kerry have transformed their dream into a thriving community cornerstone.

It is my honor to recognize the Williams family and By the Hearth Bookshop for their outstanding work and dedication to their community. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTIONS SIGNED

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolutions:

H.J. Res. 105. 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".

H.J. Res. 106. 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".

The enrolled joint resolutions were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

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. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MORENO, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 3017. A bill to require updates to the threshold amounts applicable to certain currency transaction reports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3018. A bill to permit visiting dignitaries and service members from Taiwan to display the flag of the Republic of China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. LEE, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. Res. 457. A resolution designating the week beginning on October 19, 2025, as "Coal Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 88

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

S. 138

At the request of Mr. SHEEHY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 138, a bill to require each enterprise to include on the Uniform Residential Loan Application a disclaimer to increase awareness of the direct and guaranteed home loan programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 237

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 237, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

S. 494

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 494, a bill to establish a national plan to coordinate research on epilepsy, and for other purposes.

S. 633

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary to mint and issue certain Presidential and First Spouse coins.

S. 807

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 807, a bill to provide for the crediting of funds received by the National Guard Bureau as reimbursement from States.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1538, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 1552

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1552, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 1591

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1591, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reorganize the acquisition structure of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to establish the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation in the Department, and for other purposes.

S. 1785

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1785, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny the deduction for advertising and promotional expenses for certain drugs.

S. 1884

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

S. 2096

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2096, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the Transition Assistance Program and Solid Start Program to address mental health issues, and for other purposes.

S. 2166

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2166, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include child development and early learning as community services under the Federal work-study program, and for other purposes.

S. 2255

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Vermont

(Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2255, a bill to provide for the vacating of certain convictions and expungement of certain arrests of victims of human trafficking.

S. 2392

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2392, a bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2025, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 2502

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2502, a bill to deny entry into the United States of current or former government officials engaged in the forced repatriation of Uyghurs and other designated aliens to the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

S. 2621

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2621, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for State-based maternal mortality review committees, to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to disseminate best practices on maternal mortality prevention to hospitals, State-based professional societies, and perinatal quality collaboratives, and for other purposes.

S. 2998

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2998, a bill to designate the area of H Street Northwest between Connecticut Avenue Northwest and Vermont Avenue Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, as "Charlie Kirk Patriot Way".

S. 3012

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) were added as cosponsors of S. 3012, a bill to appropriate funds for pay and allowances of excepted Federal employees for periods of work performed during a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes.

S. 3013

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3013, a bill to require all testing relating to the issuance or renewal of a commercial driver's license to be conducted only in English, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 451

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of

S. Res. 451, a resolution condemning attacks on Federal law enforcement in the State of Illinois.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 457—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 19, 2025, AS "COAL WEEK"

Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. LEE, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 457

Whereas the men and women in the coal industry who play a part in building, maintaining, and delivering access to energy should be commended for their hard work and vital role in modern life;

Whereas coal continues to serve as a reliable and affordable source of baseload power for consumers across the United States and provided 19.5 percent of the utility-scale electricity in the United States in 2022;

Whereas coal is the most abundant source of electricity worldwide, providing more than 36 percent of global electricity as of the date of introduction of this resolution;

Whereas coal was a critical source of power for the industrial revolution, driving steam engines, factories, and transportation such as railways and steam ships;

Whereas coal is an essential energy source that significantly enhanced the military readiness of the United States by enabling modernization of the Navy fleet from sail to steam-powered ships;

Whereas coal remains an important source of energy for the United States, supporting the reliable power needs essential to military readiness and national security;

Whereas the United States has made significant progress in reducing emissions from coal power plants through the adoption of advanced emission reduction technologies; and

Whereas these reductions contribute to improved air quality and public health while sustaining the energy necessary to maintain a steady and strong national gross domestic product: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on October 19, 2025, as "Coal Week"; and

(2) congratulates the ongoing progress in reducing coal emissions every year, while recognizing the role of coal in ensuring essential energy for the military readiness and economic stability of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3932. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3012, to appropriate funds for pay and allowances of excepted Federal employees for periods of work performed during a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3932. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3012, to appropriate funds for pay and allowances of ex-

cepted Federal employees for periods of work performed during a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM.

(a) FINANCING.—Section 1309(a) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4016(a)) is amended by striking "September 30, 2023" and inserting "September 30, 2026".

(b) PROGRAM EXPIRATION.—Section 1319 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4026) is amended by striking "September 30, 2023" and inserting "September 30, 2026".

(c) RETROACTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect as if enacted on September 30, 2025.

NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for the 2025 third quarter Mass Mailing report is Monday, October 27, 2025. An electronic option is available on Webster that will allow forms to be submitted via a fillable PDF document. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states "none."

Mass mailing registrations or negative reports can be submitted electronically at http://webster.senate.gov/secretary/mass_mailing_form.htm or e-mailed to OPR_MassMailings@sec.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact the Senate Office of Public Records at (202) 224-0322.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 114-196, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission: Kellyanne Conway of Washington, D.C., vice Tom Walker.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE MATH AND TAXPAYER HELP ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 998 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 998) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require additional information on math and clerical error notices.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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.

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

The bill (H.R. 998) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CONGRESSIONAL AWARD PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 284 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 284) to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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.

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

The bill (S. 284) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 284

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act”.

SEC. 2. TERMINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 108 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 808) is amended by striking “October 1, 2023” and inserting “October 1, 2028”.

(b) RETROACTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if enacted on October 1, 2023.

SEC. 3. OTHER AMENDMENTS.

Section 102 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 802) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “Each medal shall consist of gold-plate over bronze,

rhodium over bronze, or bronze and shall be struck in accordance with subsection (f).”; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1), in the second sentence, by striking “Subject to subsection (a), the” and inserting “The”.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 21; 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, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; and that at 11 a.m., the Senate execute the order of October 16 in relation to the Moisy nomination; further, that the Senate recess following disposition of the Moisy nomination until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; finally, if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday’s session of the Senate, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:26 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JENNIFER WICKS McNAMARA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE AND AP-

POINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 9034, WHICH WAS FORWARDED ON JULY 15, 2025:

To be general

GEN. THOMAS A. BUSSIERE

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

To be brigadier general

COL. EDWARD J. FINK, JR.

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

To be brigadier general

COL. SONYA L. MORRISON

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 7034:

To be general

LT. GEN. CHRISTOPHER C. LANEVE

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

To be general

LT. GEN. JOSEPH A. RYAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. MICHAEL P. FLAHERTY

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

To be brigadier general

COL. CONSTANCE L. JENKINS

COL. MARK E. STACKLE

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

To be brigadier general

COL. CHRISTOPHER B. CREAGHE

COL. JEREMY D. JOHNSON

COL. CAROLINE R. POGGE

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on October 20, 2025 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

JENNIFER WICKS McNAMARA, OF VIRGINIA, 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 SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON OCTOBER 2, 2025.