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No. 178

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 1 p.m.

## Senate

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 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.

Eternal God, our King, when our children and grandchildren want to know what we were doing in the 119th Congress during the famous shutdown, may we not have to give these answers: I helped set a new record for keeping the government closed. I failed to appeal to the better angels of my nature. I forgot Matthew 7:12, which states:

Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you.

This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

Lord, remind our lawmakers that no gold medals are given for breaking shutdown records, but a crown of righteousness is given to those who take care of the lost, last, and least.

We pray in Your loving 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

### NOMINATION OF REBECCA L. TAIBLESON

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to thank Chaplain Black for his reminding all of us about the government shutdown and how irregular it is and how we aren't helping people that government would normally be helping.

Today, we will vote on Ms. Rebecca Taibleson, the nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, so I want to take a few minutes to express my support for her nomination.

Ms. Taibleson is highly qualified. She will be serving on the Seventh Circuit. Her resume speaks for itself. She attended top schools and demonstrated academic excellence. She clerked for two Supreme Court Justices—Justice Scalia and now-Justice Kavanaugh when he was on the DC Circuit.

She has extensive experience in both private practice and public service. She has been a Federal prosecutor for nearly a decade and currently serves as appellate chief for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. As a prosecutor, she protected her community from violent criminals and the scourge of narcotics. She is also a member of the Attorney General's Review Committee on Capital Cases.

During the first Trump administration, she worked on detail in the Solicitor General's Office. She drafted numerous briefs and presented oral argument to the U.S. Supreme Court. Her former colleagues in the Justice Department wrote to the Judiciary Committee, commending Ms. Taibleson for tackling some of the most difficult legal questions facing the country and doing so with very thoughtful leadership.

Most importantly, Ms. Taibleson has consistently demonstrated her steadfast commitment to upholding the rule of law, even at personal cost. Two moments in her career particularly illustrate her willingness to take positions even at personal cost.

In 2018, she spoke publicly in defense of Justice Kavanaugh's nomination to the Supreme Court. She chose to stand up and to speak the truth even though she knew that she would become embroiled in that public spectacle that the Kavanaugh nomination brought to the country. Ms. Taibleson's voice during that testimony was courageous and very instrumental in Justice Kavanaugh's confirmation.

The same dedication to the rule of law was evident during her time in the Solicitor General's Office. She raised her hand to handle complex and important cases on behalf of the United States without regard to political pressure or personal benefit. Standing up for the rule of law without fear or favor is exactly what we should want to see in our Federal judges. I see those attributes in Ms. Taibleson.

Ms. Taibleson will make an outstanding judge, and I know she will

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



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serve the people of Wisconsin and the Seventh Circuit with distinction. President Trump made an excellent selection for this seat, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting her nomination.

I yield the floor.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

#### 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 senior assistant executive 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.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

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

There is a time and a place to debate healthcare . . . but not when the funding of the federal government, and all the lives that are impacted by it, hang in the balance.

Those are not my words; those are the words of the junior Democrat Senator from Connecticut back in 2013.

There is a time and a place to debate healthcare . . . but not when the funding of the federal government, and all the lives that are impacted by it, hang in the balance.

These words were once emblematic of the Democrat position here in the Senate. Democrats once passionately opposed shutdowns—or so they said—in large part because of the impact they would have on American citizens and American workers.

Now? Well, now, government workers and every other American affected by this shutdown have become nothing more than pawns in the Democrats' political games.

On Friday, Federal workers missed their entire paychecks. The next paycheck for our troops—for our troops, Mr. President—is in jeopardy. And more than 40 million Americans could lose access to food stamps if the shutdown continues—40 million. Yet none of it seems to matter to Senate Democrats. The party that once decried the impact of shutdowns on Americans in need is now apparently content to see 40 million Americans go without food.

The senior Democrat Senator from Vermont was on TV the other day, and

one of the hosts suggested that Members of Congress should refuse to take their paychecks during a shutdown. And what did the senior Democrat Senator from Vermont say? He said some Members of Congress couldn't afford to go without pay. That is right. Some Members of Congress couldn't afford to go without pay. Does he think that other Americans can?

The junior Democrat Senator from Arizona told NBC News during the beginning of the shutdown that he couldn't afford to miss his paycheck. That was his quote:

I'm not wealthy, and I have three kids. I would basically be missing, you know, mortgage payments, rent payments, child support. So it is not feasible, not gonna happen.

What on Earth does he think is happening to Federal workers and other Americans out of work because of the Democrat shutdown? Does he think they don't have mortgage payments, rent payments, school expenses, electric bills? If some Members of Congress can't afford to miss a paycheck, how much more is that true for the many workers making a lot less than Members of Congress pull down?

The junior Democrat Senator from Minnesota stated she would not be forgoing her pay because she is continuing to work—because she is continuing to work.

Do Democrats even hear themselves?

She does realize, right, that a lot of other people are continuing to work and have been working without pay now for 4 weeks, thanks to her actions and those of her Democrat colleagues? How many of those workers are going to miss their rent payments or mortgage payments before Democrats are satisfied?

"Shutdowns aren't victimless crimes," the senior Democrat from Virginia said—less than a year ago, I might add.

Mr. President, Democrats' victims are piling up, and Democrats don't look likely to spare anyone anytime soon. In fact, they are freely admitting it. The second ranking Democrat in the House of Representatives said recently:

Of course there will be families who are going to suffer. . . . But it is one of the few leverage times we have.

"But it is one of the few leverage times we have."

I guess the Americans currently lining up at food banks can comfort themselves with the knowledge that they are being sacrificed to advance Democrats' political goals.

If you ask Democrats the reason for the 180-degree flip in their views on shutdowns, if you challenge them to explain their hypocrisy, I suspect you wouldn't get much of an answer. I suspect that, at best, Democrats would bleat something about how this shutdown is a special case—right?

A special case—it is always a special case with the Democrats. A historic blockade of Presidential nominees—well, that was a special case. Ignore anything that you ever said about

shutdowns right here on the floor of the Senate—well, this is a special case.

I will tell you what is actually special about this case. What is special about this case is the Democrats' far-left base demanded a showdown with President Trump, and Democrats have abandoned every principle that they possess relating to shutdowns to give it to their base.

While some Democrats may be privately uncomfortable about all the damage a 4-week shutdown is doing, so far, they are too scared of their base to do anything about it.

Democrats claim that this shutdown is about addressing the expiring Obamacare subsidies. That is not what this is really about. If this were really what this is about, the Democrats would be voting to reopen the government so that we could actually engage in a serious discussion about rising healthcare costs and how Obamacare has failed to address them. But they are not because, at the end of the day, Democrats don't want a solution; they want a political issue.

And if countless hard-working Americans are sacrificed in the process?

Of course, there will be families that are going to suffer. . . . But it is one of the few leverage times we have.

Apparently, that is just fine with the Democrats here in the Senate.

Mr. President, we will be voting once again, this week, to reopen the government—to reopen the government, restore hard-working Americans' paychecks, protect nutrition programs, support critical services like air traffic control, and that list goes on and on and on. And Democrats will have a 13th chance to vote on a clean, nonpartisan funding bill that will reopen the government. All we need are five Democrats to join the three who are with us already, and we could have the government open in a matter of hours.

It is that simple. The solution is sitting right at that desk. The bill that passed the House a month ago is sitting at this desk and has been now for a month. We have repeatedly called it up and asked us to vote on it. Every time, we get 55 Senators voting for it. Everybody knows the rules. The Senate requires 60. But that bill, with five courageous Democrats stepping forward in helping us pass it, could be on the President's desk, signed into law, and this government reopens. It could happen today. It could happen this afternoon. Let's just hope that somewhere those courageous Democrats exist.

Shutdowns, even partial ones, are as devastating as they are stupid.

That was what the senior Democrat from Virginia said just last year. So how do you justify what you are doing now?

It is up to them, Mr. President. We can do it, and we can do it today.

I yield the floor.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

## GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, open enrollment is 5 days away. Starting this Saturday, tens of millions of Americans face the specter of financial crisis, all while Donald Trump is dancing on the tarmac in Malaysia.

Donald Trump may be having a nice time abroad, but people here at home are dreading—dreading—open enrollment. Insurance plans that cost \$300 or \$400 a month will suddenly cost \$2,000 a month or more because Republicans prefer to shut the government down over working with Democrats to extend the ACA tax credits. Consequently, the average ACA plan is set to more than double—double—starting next year. The average 60-year-old couple making \$85,000 a year will soon have to pay an extra \$22,000 or more just to have health insurance. Imagine the specter. The devastation will be felt across the country even by Americans with private insurance. They are not exempt. Their insurance is going up quite a bit too. The rate of people without insurance will spike by the millions. More people will get sick. More people will lose coverage. More people will go bankrupt. More people will die from preventable illness.

Americans have never seen healthcare like this, the one that is about to begin on Saturday, and Donald Trump is nowhere to be found. Americans are going to sit at their kitchen tables on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and say: How the heck can we pay these bills? What are we going to do without health insurance? What if our kids get sick? What if we get sick? And there is Donald Trump overseas not even paying attention to this crisis.

Instead of sitting down with Leader JEFFRIES and me, Trump skipped town for his second foreign trip in less than a month. Open enrollment is just days away, and Trump's message to the American people facing financial disaster is: Greetings from Malaysia.

Here is what the President needs to do: He should negotiate with Democrats to reopen the government and end the ACA crisis right away. The President should stop focusing on foreign escapades, on ballrooms, on bailouts for Argentina, and start focusing on negotiating with Democrats to lower people's healthcare costs, but Donald Trump isn't taking this crisis seriously still as millions of Americans are just frightened—tens of millions—about what will happen.

Trump continues to use the American people as pawns. This weekend, we learned that the Trump administration, for instance, ordered the USDA, the Department of Agriculture, not to tap into emergency funds to keep SNAP benefits—food benefits—flowing to the States. The very same administration that sent \$40 million to Argentina at the drop of a hat to help Trump's MAGA ally is now telling hungry families in America they can't have nutrition funding.

What gall. The administration's decision to let SNAP freeze is callous, is cynical, and entirely unnecessary.

Donald Trump says there is no money to pay hungry kids, but he is spending \$40 billion to bail out Argentina, \$300 billion on his vanity ballroom, \$172 million on two luxury jets for Kristi Noem, hundreds of millions for outfitting his foreign jet but nothing, nothing, nothing to help hungry kids.

What warped priorities. What a bubble this President lives in—apart, away, and not caring about the trauma the American people are facing when it comes to healthcare.

Let's be very clear: The administration is making an intentional choice not to fund SNAP this weekend. The emergency funding is there, but the administration is just choosing not to use it. And for those who say the money can't be moved around so easily, that is a load of bunk. If the administration can cough up \$40 billion for Argentina, they can find money for SNAP by this Saturday. This administration that all year long has trampled over the rule of law and illegally impounded funds left and right suddenly says the law won't let them fund SNAP to feed hungry kids? Give me a break.

Even Republicans privately know that Donald Trump's SNAP ploy is outrageously cynical. Here is what one House Republican said on the issue:

I find it hard to believe a Department with so many slush funds can't find the money for a month of SNAP benefits.

That is a quote from a House Republican.

So make no mistake, Donald Trump is manufacturing a SNAP crisis instead of working with Democrats to reopen the government and end the healthcare crisis, which is very, very real for tens of millions of American families because, after all, what Democrats are pushing for is the same thing that the American people want. Americans want to see their healthcare premiums go down. Americans want to see the government reopen. They don't want to have to pay an extra \$20,000 a year just to have health insurance. We Democrats want to solve this crisis right away. Lowering healthcare is not a crazy demand. It is not some leftwing pipedream, which it seems the Senate Republican leader wants people to believe. It is, rather, just common sense.

Most Americans, even MAGA voters, agree, as 55 percent of those who voted for Trump want to see the ACA credits extended, but Donald Trump and his Republican colleagues in the Senate and even more so in the House, are nowhere—nowhere—to be found. So the choice to keep the government open or to keep the government closed is entirely in Donald Trump's and Republicans' hands.

Time is short, and Americans are on the brink of a crisis that could send millions and millions of families into financial disaster. Donald Trump and Republicans, meanwhile, are not even

here in Washington to deal with the crisis heading straight toward us.

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.

## IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, a few weeks ago, the Catholic cardinal and archbishop of Washington, DC, gave a homily on the occasion of the annual celebration to honor and support immigrants. He made special note of what is currently happening across America, what he called an unprecedented assault upon millions of immigrant men and women and families in our midst.

He said:

This campaign [by this administration against immigrants] relies on fear and terror at its core, for the government knows that it cannot succeed in its efforts except by bringing new dimensions of fear and terror to our nation's history and life. "Its goal is simple," the cardinal said, "to rob undocumented immigrants of any real peace in their lives so that in misery they will 'self-deport.'"

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this homily be printed in the RECORD in its entirety.

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

[From the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, Washington, DC, Sept. 28, 2025]

HOMILY: MASS FOR THE 111TH WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

(Given by Robert Cardinal McElroy, Archbishop of Washington)

For the past one hundred ten years, Mass has been celebrated throughout our country to honor and support immigrants and refugees who have come to our nation as part of that stream of men and women from every land who have built up the United States into a great nation. But this year is different from the one hundred ten years that have preceded it. For this year we are confronting—both as a nation and as a Church—an unprecedented assault upon millions of immigrant men and women and families in our midst.

Our first obligation as a Church is to embrace in a sustained, unwavering, prophetic and compassionate way the immigrants who are suffering so deeply because of the oppression they are facing. Our Catholic community here in Washington has witnessed many people of deep faith, integrity and compassion who have been swept up and deported in the crackdown which has been unleashed in our nation. A profound ministry of consolation, justice and support must be the hallmark of our spiritual and pastoral care at this moment, and I thank all of the parishes, priests and faith leaders in our community who have taken up this ministry, so many of whom are present today.

For the undocumented community of our Archdiocese, your daily witness of faith and family, hard work and sacrifice, compassion and love is a profound reflection of the deepest virtues of our faith and the most noble aspirations of our nation. The theme of today's procession is hope amidst adversity,

and in these days of deep suffering you give us an example of transforming hope and a resiliency that is founded upon the Gospel of Jesus Christ, whose cross symbolizes at its core suffering amidst injustice, and the recognition that in our moments of deepest hardship, our God stands with us.

We are witnessing a comprehensive governmental assault designed to produce fear and terror among millions of men and women who have through their presence in our nation been nurturing precisely the religious, cultural, communitarian and familial bonds that are most frayed and most valuable at this moment in our country's history. This assault seeks to make life unbearable for undocumented immigrants. It is willing to tear families apart, separating grieving mothers from their children, and fathers from the sons and daughters who are the center of their lives. It embraces as collateral damage the horrific emotional suffering that is being thrust on children who were born here, but now face the terrible choice of losing their parents or leaving the only country that they have ever known.

Catholic social teaching states that every nation has the right to effectively control its own borders and provide security. Thus, efforts to secure our borders and deport those undocumented immigrants convicted of serious crimes constitute legitimate national goals. At times, our government asserts that these goals constitute the essence and scope of its immigration enforcement efforts, and if that were true Catholic teaching would raise no objection.

But the reality we are facing here in the Archdiocese of Washington and across our country is far different. For our government is engaged in—by its own admission and by the tumultuous enforcement actions it has launched—a comprehensive campaign to uproot millions of families and hard-working men and women who have come to our country seeking a better life that includes contributing to building up the best elements of our culture and society. This campaign relies on fear and terror at its core, for the government knows that it cannot succeed in its efforts except by bringing new dimensions of fear and terror to our nation's history and life. Its goal is simple and unitary: to rob undocumented immigrants of any real peace in their lives so that in misery they will “self-deport”.

What is the moral foundation for the government in undertaking such a comprehensive campaign of fear, in uprooting ten million people from their homes and expelling them from our country? The government says the answer is simple and determinative: they broke a law when they entered or chose to stay in the United States.

But today's Gospel proposes a far different measure for determining whether ten million men and women and children and families who have lived alongside us for decades should face terror and expulsion: are they our neighbors?

The Parable of the Good Samaritan is the greatest parable that Jesus gave to the formation of our moral lives and our understanding of bonds of community and sacrifice and embrace in this world. The most striking element of the Parable is not that the Samaritan took notice of the man who had been robbed, or that he was willing to sacrifice on his behalf or that he placed his own life at risk by stopping in a very dangerous location to see if help was needed. No, the most striking element of the Parable is that the Samaritan was willing to reject the norms of society which said that because of his birth and status he had no obligation to the victim, who was a Jew. The piercing insight and glory of the Samaritan was that he rejected the narrowness and myopia of the

law to understand that the victim he was passing by was truly his neighbor and that both God and the moral law obligated him to treat him as neighbor.

In the very same way, for us as believers and citizens, our obligation regarding undocumented women and men is to ask ourselves: Are they truly our neighbor? Is the mother who sacrifices in every dimension of her life to nurture children who will live rightly, productively and caringly our neighbor? Is the man being deported despite the fact that he has three sons who serve in the marines because of the values he taught them our neighbor? Is the woman who works to provide home care for our sick and elderly parents our neighbor? Is the young adult who came here as a child and loves this nation as the only country he has ever known our neighbor? Is the undocumented woman who contributes tirelessly to our parish, caring for the church, leading the daily rosary our neighbor?

In the Gospel today Jesus demands that the central perspective we must bring to understanding the moral legitimacy of the campaign of fear and deportation being waged in our country today springs from the bonds of community that have come to tie us together as neighbors, not the question of whether sometime in their past individuals broke a law by entering or remaining in the United States.

It is this perspective that must form our stance and action as people of faith. As a Church we must console and peacefully stand in solidarity with the undocumented men and women whose lives are being upended by the government's campaign of fear and terror. Courage and sacrifice must be the hallmark of our actions at this moment of historic and deliberate suffering being visited upon people living truly good lives that are a credit to our nation. As citizens, we must not be silent as this profound injustice is carried out in our name. The priest and the Levite in today's Gospel are a stark reminder that in the face of suffering, we so often choose to pass on by—sometimes out of indifference, sometimes out of fear, sometimes out of a general reluctance to become involved.

But Jesus rejected this indifference, this fear, this reluctance. His telling last words in the Gospel allow only one option. Which of these in your opinion was neighbor to the robber's victim? In understanding and facing the oppression of undocumented men and women in our midst, we can only have one response: I was, Lord, because I saw in them your face.

Mr. DURBIN. A few days ago, some Jewish rabbis in the Chicagoland area sent a letter to the editor of the Chicago Sun-Times on the same immigration crisis. They wrote:

On behalf of Jewish clergy serving communities across Chicago and Illinois, we write in opposition to the escalating campaign of fear and repression carried out by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in our city and suburbs.

In recent weeks—

These rabbis wrote—

ICE has disappeared people, used tear gas in residential neighborhoods and shot at least two residents with live rounds, one fatally.

At Broadview, agents fired rubber bullets on demonstrators, including clergy members. In South Shore, ICE and Border Patrol staged an overnight raid on an apartment building, dragging families from their beds, separating children from parents and leaving them handcuffed outdoors for hours.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this letter to the editor from

the Jewish rabbis in Chicago be printed in its entirety in the RECORD.

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

[From the Chicago Sun Times, Oct. 26, 2025]

JEWISH CLERGY RAISE ALARMS ON ICE,

BORDER PATROL TACTICS

(By Letters to the Editor)

On behalf of Jewish clergy serving communities across Chicago and Illinois, we write in opposition to the escalating campaign of fear and repression carried out by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in our city and suburbs.

In recent weeks, ICE has disappeared people, used tear gas in residential neighborhoods and shot at least two residents with live rounds, one fatally.

At Broadview, agents fired rubber bullets on demonstrators, including clergy members. In South Shore, ICE and Border Patrol staged an overnight raid on an apartment building, dragging families from their beds, separating children from parents and leaving them handcuffed outdoors for hours.

These tactics are spreading fear across Illinois.

It is our patriotic and sacred duty to uphold just immigration policies and protect our vulnerable neighbors.

Many of us descend from people who fled state-sponsored terror, when paramilitary forces patrolled their neighborhoods. Our history teaches that safety does not come from repression but from connection—from showing up for our neighbors and refusing to be silent when state power targets a community.

We must use every tool at our disposal to ensure a just and compassionate immigration system. A broad coalition of community organizations, led by the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, is urging lawmakers in Springfield to pass the Safety and Action for Liberation Together package, which would:

Bar civil arrests by ICE and other law enforcement at state courthouses.

Protect patients and staff from law enforcement actions inside hospitals.

Expand Safe Schools protections to early childhood and higher education spaces.

Give Illinois residents the right to sue federal agencies for unlawful arrests and detentions.

We call on the Illinois General Assembly to pass this legislation and on people of all faiths to stand together to protect our communities and uphold human dignity.

Rabbi Capers C. Funnye Jr., Chicago Lawn

Rabbi Isaac Serotta, Highland Park

Rabbi Jessie Wainer, Lombard

Rabbi Shoshanah Conover, Lake View

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I make a point now, since the arrival of the military from President Trump into the Chicago area, to go home each weekend and visit the neighborhoods that are under assault from the ICE agents.

I did that last weekend. I visited a suburb of Chicago known as Elgin, IL. People have heard of it, I am sure. It is the sixth largest city in our State.

The mayor, Dave Kaptain, is a true bipartisan man. It is no surprise that he has been mayor for almost 12 years. He is a good mayor and a good person. We met in his office and talked about what is going on.

Elgin was one of the first targets of President Trump and ICE. They sent in the agents in the early morning hours,

along with Secretary Noem of the Department of Homeland Security. They broke down a door to a home, raided it by removing the family and accusing one of the occupants of being undocumented. There was no allegation made that these people were dangerous criminals, nor was there any question that they are the “worst of the worst,” in Donald Trump’s words.

Do you remember how many times he gave speeches at his rallies talking about these people who are now being disappeared by ICE? Remember how he referred to them—rapists, murderers, terrorists, sexual predators, criminally insane?

It turns out that of all of the people who were arrested, detained, and disappeared by ICE, 70 percent of those have no criminal record whatsoever.

So what is actually happening? The cardinal from the District of Columbia and the Jewish rabbis know, and we all know. It is a reign of terror—a reign of terror from this administration—not to make America safer but to make sure that people who weren’t born here leave.

But, unfortunately, if you are a student of history, you know that is the story of America: immigrants who came to this country seeking freedom and opportunity and making this a great nation. My family tells that story, and I am sure most of the people listening to my voice can tell the same story. But what is going on now is a reign of terror.

I went to a section of Chicago known as Little Village. Little Village is primarily Mexican American. It is a great community—miles and miles of shops and stores and restaurants.

When I visited with them on Friday, they were largely empty. One fellow at the grocery store told me 50 percent of the customers have disappeared. Why? Because they are afraid. They are afraid to leave their homes. For what? To be arrested, to be detained, to disappear.

Oftentimes, we are asked to try to find someone who has been detained and get little or no cooperation from the Federal Agencies. These are the tactics of dictators in faraway countries, not American due process, but that is the reality of what we are facing.

I asked the mayor of Elgin what he thought about the population—the Hispanic population—in his town.

He said: Senator, 50 percent of the people in my city of Elgin are Hispanic. Many of them are immigrants. They make for a great community. We just had a beautiful festival, with 10,000 people showing up. It has been a tradition in Elgin for a long time, and one we are proud of.

He made a point of telling me that they are changing the ordinances in Elgin so as to make those who are protected by DACA eligible to apply to be firefighters and policemen. The one for policemen has been on the books for a while. Now they have expanded it to

firefighters, and they have a long line of people interested—immigrants who are prepared to risk their lives to keep their community safe.

That, I think, is a great story of a great town, and I am proud to represent them.

But we cannot be proud of the tactics that are being used by ICE and by the Department of Homeland Security. If you are going after serious criminals, “the worst of the worst”—the litany that is often given by President Trump in his rallies—count me in. I will be part of that. But to terrorize people in their homes, to make them afraid to go to church, afraid to go to the market, afraid to go to a restaurant, is not what this country is about.

There is only one parallel in history that I can think of that has occurred in my lifetime, and that, of course, would be the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. It was a discriminatory policy in the midst of a war that took these people from their homes and their businesses and held them in camps scattered around the West of the United States.

We look back on that, years later, and say: That was a terrible mistake. That is not what America is all about.

I was a Member of the House of Representatives when the U.S. Government, under President Clinton, issued a formal apology to Japanese Americans for that policy.

Sadly, we are building up another occurrence in the United States with the actions of ICE and the Department of Homeland Security, when it comes to Hispanic Americans. Profiling is part of the process, and it is a disgrace that it is. That is the reality of what we face in Chicago, and that is the reality of what they are going to face in other States to come.

It is time for not only the clergy to speak up but the people who care to speak up, who believe in human life and the value of it and who believe that people need to be treated with respect.

#### RUSSIA

Mr. President, on an unrelated issue, over the weekend, we witnessed another brutal Russian onslaught against Ukraine—a scene brazenly repeated after overtures made to Russian President Putin to end the war.

I do not begrudge President Trump for trying to engage with Putin. I have met with my fair share of autocrats in my political career. But Putin is not serious about negotiating an end to the war in Ukraine. He is not driven by real estate or personal financial motivations but by deep personal grievances and twisted readings of history and nostalgia for the Soviet Empire—so much so that Putin has been willing to slaughter thousands of innocent Ukrainians, kidnap children, and send more than a million Russians to become war casualties in pursuit of his myopia.

We should also be under no illusions that this is just a Russian assault on

Ukraine. It is an assault against the United States’ values, and it is an assault against NATO and its allies.

Last week, again, Russia entered NATO airspace—this time, in Lithuania. The move followed years of increasingly provocative Russian incursions. And Russian planes have entered the Alaskan Air Defense Identification Zone at least nine times this year.

I welcome President Trump’s recent decision to tighten sanctions on Russia. He can and should take further steps to increase military and economic pressure on Putin, and we in Congress should finally pass sanctions legislation, which has 80 cosponsors from both political parties, and we should do it soon.

#### HEALTHCARE

Mr. President, on an unrelated topic, today, my constituents in Illinois will begin to receive letters from health insurance companies outlining the prices for next year’s health insurance premiums. For many Illinois families, these letters will inform them that their premium costs will double.

Do you want to know why we are in a government shutdown? It is because of that letter that is being sent around by insurance companies to residents of Illinois and many other States this week. They are going to learn, unfortunately, that the cost of their health insurance, in many instances, is going to double—\$1,000 or more for each one of these recipients—all because congressional Republicans have chosen to allow the Affordable Care Act’s enhanced tax credits to expire.

These credits have helped millions of people in every State, but the Republicans want to get rid of them. They want American families to have to pay more for health insurance.

Last week, I sent a letter to the health insurance companies in Illinois, asking them what it will mean to lose these tax credits. Major health insurers, like Blue Cross Blue Shield and United, told me that the expiration of these tax credits will be a disaster.

In Illinois, these tax credits lower premiums by an average of more than \$500 a month—\$6,000 a year. Families who are struggling to try to pay electric and utility bills, struggling to pay grocery expenses, now face up to \$6,000 a year more for the same health insurance they enjoyed this year.

When Illinoisans go online at [getcoveredillinois.gov](http://getcoveredillinois.gov), today, to check their health insurance premiums for next year, they are going to see two devastating things: First, nearly 400,000 Illinoisans will have to grapple with the reality that they may no longer receive the premium assistance they received this year. These losses could reach hundreds to thousands of dollars a month, depending on the family size. Second, they will see that, across our State, health insurance premiums are going up approximately 30 percent next year, fueled by these expiring tax credits and the “Big Beautiful Trump Budget Bill.”

It is a double hit—loss of the enhanced tax credits and underlying costs skyrocketing—all because the Republicans in Congress refuse to sit down with us now—now—and fix this problem.

Listen to what Melanie from Elmhurst shared with me. She said:

I receive a \$379 monthly tax credit . . . without the tax credit [my insurance] is unaffordable, plain and simple.

She is not alone. She is 1 of 100,000 people in my State and more than 4 million nationwide who stand to lose their health coverage because of this Republican decision.

Democrats tried to address the expiration of these credits this year, but the Republicans have refused to cooperate. Now is the time to get it done for families. Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, whether they vote or not, should have access to health insurance.

If you are looking for leadership from the White House, we have to hope that the President will return from his trip and take up this cause.

I hope that the House of Representatives will actually come to the Capitol for the first time in 4 or 5 weeks. Their presence is long overdue.

I yield the floor.

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

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, we are in day 27 of a government shutdown—27 days where the government is shut down—and yet we are here. You are presiding. We have pages on the floor. There are people in the Gallery. There are people coming and going. We have Capitol Hill police that are in the area. And it just kind of feels like business as usual. We are going to have committee hearings this week. We are going to be voting on judges and some CRAs. And it just kind of feels like business as usual, and yet it is so not business as usual. We are pretending that everything is OK. We are pretending that people are not being impacted by this shutdown.

I am looking at the people that are here recording this, that will be working to process this RECORD. None of them are getting paid.

The Capitol Hill police that I visit with on a daily basis outside and inside are not getting paid. And they share with me that: Well, I still had to drive in. I have a 40-minute drive to get here, so I have to fill up my car. I have kids at home that are young kids, and they go to childcare.

This is a Capitol Hill police officer saying this. And he says: So I still have to pay the childcare provider even though I have to come in and I am not getting paid. So my expenses are not going away.

Yet every single one of them says: I am not complaining. I am not complaining. I have signed up for this. This is my mission, and I will be here.

They are proud to be here. But what is wrong is that their families are

stressed. I was talking with one Capitol Hill police officer on Thursday of last week, and he says: Every day, I go home and my wife says, "So, did they open it up? Are we going to be paid?" And he said: I tell her "Nope, no progress today."

So we are starting to feel that, because people who would otherwise just be saying "I signed up for this. I am not going to complain. I am just going to do what I am going to do"—we are starting to feel this in real time, and it is having an impact not only financially but, I fear, from a mental health perspective.

We had a call come in just—well, actually today. This is a person who was calling from Fairbanks, and she said: It is getting chilly in Fairbanks. I woke up to a bill for heating oil of nearly \$2,500. Normally, this wouldn't be that big of a problem for me, but I am a Federal employee. I love my job, but it has been very frustrating to have constant threats of shutdowns and RIFs looming over my head. I work hard. I am so tired of being labeled as one who is not working hard. I would first like to propose that Congress doesn't get paid while we aren't getting paid and maybe take fewer long weekends.

Well, I would let her know that, for many of us—I don't know about the occupant of the Chair, but for many of us, we have deferred our pay. It is not right that our staffs should not get paid and yet we get paid.

But she raises a good point. She says that maybe we in Congress should take fewer long weekends. I think she is right. I think she is right. We left here Thursday afternoon. Members are just now coming back. We will have our first vote here at 5:30.

In the meantime, people have done important stuff. We have important jobs. We go home, we do important things, and maybe we are able to carve out a little time to be with our families as well and try to have some of that balance.

But, for some, they still had to come in this weekend. Some of those Capitol Hill police officers still had to come in this weekend to keep this place moving. Some of the folks who are here to provide services to the building still had to come in this weekend, and they weren't getting paid.

So I think the suggestion about us maybe taking fewer long weekends is something not only that we should consider, but I am going to challenge this body. I have a long commute home, folks, and I am not begrudging that, but I don't think that we should be going home and just behaving as if this was another week in the U.S. Senate—not when we have a government shutdown.

There is so much—so much—that is coming at us like a freight train. Little kids are excited because Friday is going to be Halloween, but let me tell you, the scary costumes on Halloween night are not going to be the scariest things; it is going to be what is deliv-

ered, what is left on the doorstep the next morning, November 1, when it then becomes officially official that SNAP payments will not be processed, will not be available for the many, many—66,000 in Alaska—who rely on those food benefits. The WIC payments to the women, infants, and children—those, too, will be impacted. It is a reality for us that we are seeing an impact across our society in ways that are not only scary but overwhelming for some.

We had a pretty, pretty tough week and a half with a major disaster. Thank you to the President for declaring that Presidential disaster following ex-Typhoon Halong. But I can tell you that those who are reliant on SNAP benefits are increasingly stressed because of what they have just gone through with displacement within their homes. And now it is across the whole State.

Our food banks are stressed. We were stressed going into the beginning of winter already. We keep in close touch with our food banks, and what I am hearing is that we are already seeing the lines at the food banks growing longer. And what is hard to see is to know how many military families are part of those lines now.

Madam President, this is simply—this is simply not right. And we may or may not have what we call rifle-shot votes this week that will—maybe we will take up again the bill that would pay all the Federal workers. Maybe there will be a way that the military, who has been paid up until the end of this month—that we will be able to make that next pay increment. I certainly hope so. And not just our military but our U.S. Coast Guard and those that are in law enforcement. Maybe there is going to be a vote that would allow us to pay our U.S. Capitol Police. I have signed on to that bipartisan measure. And maybe there is going to be a vote for us to pay out the SNAP benefits. I have signed on to that legislation as well. Maybe but maybe not.

Again, if we do take the rifle-shot approach, who else are we leaving behind? What have we done for the men and women who are making sure that when we go through those airports—the TSA—you have gone through the TSA. What have we done to make sure that our air traffic controllers that are keeping us safe in the skies—that their wives aren't yelling at them at the end of a long, stressful day and saying: When is this going to end?

So we have to figure this out. And I know that we have our positions, and if people don't know what the Republican positions are and the Democrat positions are, they haven't been listening to this discussion for the past 27 days. We know what it is. We have got to come together, which means we have got to talk to one another. And it can't be about Republicans winning and Democrats losing or Democrats winning and Republicans losing because



right now—right now—those that are losing are the American people, those who are calling us up and saying Social Security hasn't released her survivor's benefits after her husband's death. The inquiry is placed on hold. Sorry. You are just going to have to wait.

A fellow in Petersburg was told that his telehealth appointment with his cardiologist was canceled because of the lapse in authorization of telehealth benefits. So they basically said: If you want to keep this appointment, you are going to have to fly to Seattle. Those of you that know Alaska know that Petersburg and Seattle are not connected by a road, and it is not cheap.

A couple in Anchorage said that they have been waiting on an approval from the FDA on a compassionate use exception for a medication to treat stage IV ovarian cancer, and now they are told: Just hold on. Hold on. The government is not operational right now.

We have a lot in our maritime community, and in order for them to be lawfully out on the water, they need to have a license renewed through the new merchant mariner credentialing. That is on hold.

We have a housing situation in Sitka, and we have an Army Corps permit for the housing authority that has been delayed. We can't figure that one out.

We are talking to people who have been trying to get an SBA loan—a local business owner in downtown.

The school district in Sleetmute has been waiting to get the impact aid emergency construction dollars so that they can repair this roof that is literally falling down on top of the kids in the back of the school there.

They are told: Well, there is nobody here to take your call. There is nobody here to take your call because the government is not open.

So for those who think that this is not that big of a deal, they need to start asking people—not only people who are Federal employees, not only people who are SNAP recipients; they need to be asking people about just some of the day-to-day, matter-of-fact things that happen when you have a small business or you are trying to get your fishing vessel out in the water. Real Alaskans are being impacted, and real Alabamans are being impacted.

Americans are being impacted when we don't do our job. And maybe this idea of "We don't go home this weekend until we resolve this"—maybe it doesn't work. Maybe we just look at one another and say: I am not even going to talk to you. Maybe we just continue on with multiple rounds of the same vote that we have been taking for the past 27 days and see if we get a different result.

Now, some say that is the definition of insanity. I don't know. I don't know. But what I do know is that when we leave and we assume that things are fine or we send that message that things are fine because we have just gone home and it is just business as usual here, then people whose lives are

really being impacted right now—they think we don't get it.

We do get it. We need to act to end this shutdown, and I am going to call on all of my colleagues to stay here until we get it done.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

HEZBOLLAH

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, the name "Hezbollah" has become increasingly familiar in recent years to Americans as one of Iran's main proxy groups committed to the destruction of Israel and even the United States.

Beyond the horrific bombings of the U.S. Embassy and marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, in the 1980s, many of us now associate the name with Iran, of course, which has been the principal financial supporter of Hezbollah, to the tune of 70 to 90 percent of its budget. In return, Hezbollah acts as one of Iran's proxies in the so-called Axis of Resistance.

We all know that Hezbollah is one of the terror groups in the Middle East, responsible for numerous violent attacks over the past several decades. But lesser known is their influence in the Americas—specifically in Latin America. Perhaps lesser known is the broad extent of Hezbollah's activities in the Western Hemisphere, which includes illicit drug trafficking and other criminal enterprises. Hezbollah uses these activities to generate cash to help finance terrorism back home in the Middle East.

So while many in the West are focused on Iran's proxy terrorism around the world, we cannot afford to ignore our own backyard.

Last week, I chaired a hearing for the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control to examine the role that terrorist networks played in creating the drug crisis that we face here in the United States, which has taken hundreds of thousands of lives over recent years. In this hearing, expert witnesses testified about Hezbollah's activities in Central America and in South America and how they have strengthened drug cartels and other criminal organizations that are actively trafficking drugs into our country across the southern border.

This illicit drug trafficking in Latin America is one of Hezbollah's primary sources of income used to finance terrorism, as I said earlier. As we learned at the hearing, now more than ever, Hezbollah will be looking to increase its cash flow and revenue from drug trafficking and other illegal activities in Latin America as they seek to rebuild from Israel's impressive campaign to rid the world of this terrorist threat.

We learned that Hezbollah takes advantage of free-trade zones in Central America, where they can carry out their illegal operations under minimal law enforcement and oversight. Then there is the triborder region between Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay, long

known to be a hotbed of terrorist financing because it has a minimal law enforcement footprint and is a hub for commerce. It is a black market for all sorts of illicit activities, from drug trafficking, to arms trafficking, to identity theft, and even to real estate schemes. Hezbollah, when it comes to its fundraising, like many, many criminal organizations, is commodity-agnostic, meaning they will do anything for money.

The border of these three countries, known as the triborder region, is isolated and hard to monitor, making it possible for easy transit between them. It boasts a robust network of roads that connect the area to major cities as well as international airports. These attributes, paired with high levels of corruption and lack of good governance, create the perfect petri dish for both licit and illicit trade to flourish.

It was in this region in 2008 where the U.S.'s Operation Titan arrested upwards of 130 suspects and seized roughly \$23 million associated with a joint operation between Hezbollah and Colombian cartels that were engaged in cocaine smuggling and money laundering. This operation uncovered about 700,000 wiretapped conversations revealing drug cartels' association with—working hand in glove with Hezbollah—700,000 wiretapped conversations tying these drug cartels to this terrorist organization.

For example, one key cartel leader was known as Taliban and was given permission to freely import drugs and launder cash into Lebanon in exchange for a 12-percent tax on his proceeds paid to Hezbollah.

Hezbollah's operations extend to other free-trade zones, like Margarita Island in Venezuela and Maicao in Colombia. It was in Maicao where Ali Mohammad Saleh, a designated Hezbollah facilitator, led a "support cell" that raised money for the broader Hezbollah network. His activities included transporting money from Colombia to Hezbollah in Lebanon through Venezuela.

The Venezuelan Government has openly embraced this illicit commerce and these criminal organizations. At last week's hearing, one of our witnesses described the regime of President Maduro as "a key enabler of Hezbollah's malign activity in the Western Hemisphere."

From providing passports to Hezbollah operatives, allowing them to travel more freely, to creating transportation pipelines, to intelligence collaboration, Venezuela has developed a partnership with Iran and Hezbollah, allowing them to finance their terror operations around the world while they engage in illicit money laundering and the transportation of drugs and other illegal activities in the Americas.

The U.S. Treasury Department has uncovered key evidence that the Maduro regime and Iran are collaborating at the state level. For example in 2020, Adel El Zabayar, a former Venezuelan official and political ally of

Nicolas Maduro, was indicted in the Southern District of New York for facilitating cocaine and weapons trafficking between his own government and Hezbollah. A Venezuelan businessman was also found to have provided resources to Hezbollah, including ideological and military training and networks for illicit trafficking of drugs and weapons.

Notwithstanding the impressive work of the U.N.'s intelligence community, Maduro has not exactly been secretive about who his friends and who his enemies are. In 2022, Maduro openly bragged about his "exemplary relationship" and "increasing cooperation" with Iran in an interview where he said:

All of us who fight against colonialism, all of us who fight to decolonize our minds and our people, are part of the Axis of Resistance that stands against the methods of imperialists for imposing hegemony on the world.

Now, if you didn't know that this was the President of Venezuela speaking, you might have mistaken the quote from a leader of Iran or some other state sponsor of terrorism or you might have mistaken it for one of America's elite universities or a slogan from one of the pro-Hamas clubs protesting on Columbia's campus, for example, last spring, who pride themselves in resisting "western colonialism." Well, obviously, they are all drinking the same Kool-Aid.

In addition to aiding and abetting Hezbollah, Maduro has been criminally indicted based on his leadership of the Cartel of the Suns—probably one of the least known cartels. Better known are the Mexican cartels. But Cartel of the Suns is actually headed up by Nicolas Maduro, the President of Venezuela, and it includes a network of Venezuelan military officials, including the army, navy, air force, and the Bolivarian National Guard.

Named for the insignias that Venezuelan military officials wear on their uniforms, the Cartel of the Suns—or the "Cartel de los Soles"—is involved in everything from gasoline smuggling to illegal mining, drug trafficking, and a whole raft of other illegal activities in Central and South and North America.

The U.S. Treasury Department sanctioned the Cartel of the Suns this past July for its materiel support of Tren de Aragua and the Sinaloa Cartel in their illegal drug and criminal activity here in the United States.

This gives you an idea of how interconnected these networks are that seek to undermine our country and to threaten our people—not just in America but also our friends and allies in Central and South America. This is a network that chants threats to Israel—"Death to Israel"—and also chants "Death to America."

We have known for a long time that much of the fentanyl trafficked through our southern border was manufactured using Chinese precursor chemicals. We also know that China,

Russia, Iran, and North Korea have been working in concert for a long time to undermine the West. So it is no surprise that Maduro's despotic regime in Venezuela aspires to join that list as part of the Axis of Resistance. We should not be shocked when our enemies work together.

The crisis of drug trafficking and human trafficking and other crimes in the hands of international criminal networks that the Biden administration ignored at the southern border is another scheme that our enemies have devised to harm the United States. The Biden administration was asleep at the switch—and that is being kind—when it came to the threat of a porous southern border and their open border policies, allowing criminal networks, along with their poison, to be freely transported into the United States and take tens of thousands of lives and help enrich our adversaries in Iran and Hezbollah.

The deaths in America resulting from drug overdose and the violent crime that our people are suffering is not an accident; it is directly connected to this axis of resistance.

And while it may be easy to think we can ignore these terrorists in the Middle East because, well, there is an ocean between us and them, the fact of the matter is, there is not. They are operating right here in our own backyard.

Iran's proxy terrorist operations have contributed to and profited from the instability and corruption in South America that has led to a mass migration crisis in South America and Mexico, which has flooded our southern border with unprecedented numbers of illegal crossings during the Biden administration. This phenomenon, paired with the strengthening of the criminal cartels in Latin America, has led to much more criminal activities here in the United States, where street gangs distribute the drugs exported from these countries to America, to our border, then to be distributed across the United States to the detriment of the American people.

So the reason this hearing was so important is because we need to connect the dots. We need to make sure we understand the nature of the threat to our way of life, and it is not just about over there; it is about right here in our backyard that our enemies are collaborating and threatening the safety and security of the American people.

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

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

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I come to the Senate today to address

my recent oversight relating to our Nation's Federal courts and to share some of my recent findings.

This month, I sent letters to a pair of Federal judges regarding their suspected use of artificial intelligence in published court orders. The two judges issued orders that were wrought with serious, inexplicable errors that were of great concern to the litigants, to the public, and to me.

One judge, sitting in the southern district of Mississippi, issued an order that named plaintiffs and defendants who were not even a party to the case. It misquoted statutory text. It erroneously cited evidence that didn't exist in the record, and it referred to sworn declarations by people who had not appeared anywhere in the case.

I have never seen or heard of anything like this from any Federal court. The other judge sitting in the district of New Jersey issued an order with fake quotes and misstatements about case law. The order even falsely attributed quotations to the defendants that apparently were never made, errors like I just described are unfathomable.

Both judges' errors are obviously reckless and unacceptable, but, in fact, it gets worse. When these flagrant mistakes were brought to the courts' attention by counsel in the cases, both judges attempted to minimize their faults. One even referred to the errors as "clerical."

Both judges removed their orders from the docket and the public record without even any explanation. This lack of transparency is breathtaking, and the judges' refusal to accept responsibility for their actions eroded public confidence in the competency and fairness of the Federal judiciary.

When litigants or their attorneys misuse artificial intelligence like this and file sloppy briefs with incorrect citations and falsehoods, they are rightly held accountable.

Just recently, we have seen attorneys sanctioned, attorneys fined, removed from their cases, and even referred for professional discipline and disbarment for this kind of conduct.

Well, that is how attorneys are handling it when they misuse or do the wrong thing. In fact, in a case assigned to one of these judges, a magistrate judge publicly chastised a counsel for using artificial intelligence in a brief.

Now, apparently some judges think accountability runs only one way, but we all know they are wrong. As the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently explained, "The use of AI or other technology does not excuse carelessness or failure to follow professional standards."

That is true for every officer of a Federal court, attorney, and judge alike.

Now, to their credit, finally, these two judges responded to my letters and explained that they are taking measures to ensure that these incidents never happen again.

Each acknowledges that the errors in their orders arose from the misuse of



artificial intelligence by staff in their Chambers. One judge blamed a law student intern and the other blamed a law clerk for generating the errors. This helps explain how it happened, but ultimately how it happened that way does not matter.

A lawyer can't excuse an error-ridden brief by blaming a paralegal or junior associate, attorneys' names go on their filings, just as judges' names go on their orders. The judges issue orders in their own name that determine the rights of the parties before them.

The buck stops at the judges. It is bad enough that the Federal court order could misstate or pervert the law to the degree that we saw it in these two judges, but I am concerned that these now-public blunders arose in cases represented by sophisticated parties who had the resources and the legal talent to push back and make sure that their clients got justice.

So at the same time, through these errors that I have pointed out, we have to fear that people without resources—that if the same thing happened to an indigent party or a pro se litigant—the truth may never have come to light. I cannot and will not stand for that. All litigants are owed a fair shake in the court.

Our Federal courts must hold themselves to the highest of standards. Our Constitution depends on it. Justice requires it. Americans deserve better from their judges.

Now, to be clear, I appreciate these two judges finally accepting responsibility for what went on in their jurisdiction, and I believe them when they say that they are deploying measures to prevent the same mistakes from happening again. But this should be a lesson, not just for these two judges but for the entire bench and the bar.

Artificial intelligence is a powerful and potentially dangerous resource. Although it may have some role in preliminary legal research, it cannot and must not be a substitute for legal judgment.

The Senate confirms Federal judges. We don't confirm computer software to perform the duties mandated under article III.

As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am committed to safeguarding litigants' rights and ensuring that every party in Federal court receives fair treatment and careful review by article III judges.

I call on every judge in America to take this issue seriously and formalize measures to prevent the misuse of artificial intelligence in their chambers.

I also call upon the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and also the Judicial Conference to quickly develop decisive and meaningful guidance on the use of artificial intelligence by our judiciary.

In the wake of my oversight, Judge Cronan, in the Southern District of New York, implemented a rule in his courtroom to ensure the accuracy of filings. He requires attorneys to dis-

close any artificial intelligence use and to certify that he or she "personally reviewed the filings for accuracy." I applaud him for taking this issue seriously, and I encourage other members of the bench to consider similar rules and to hold themselves to the same standard as they require of litigants in the court.

I am hopeful that these two unfortunate episodes by the two judges that I referred to will serve as a wake-up call across the Federal judiciary. But if it isn't, I am here today to give a warning: I am watching. All of Congress is now watching. If this issue doesn't get fixed by the judiciary, we will step in to protect the rights of the American litigants using powers available to Congress under the Constitution.

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

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

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled vote occur immediately.

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

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Rebecca L. Taibleson, of Wisconsin, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

#### VOTE ON TAIBLESON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Taibleson nomination?

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 588 Ex.]

#### YEAS—52

Banks	Boozman	Capito
Barrasso	Britt	Cassidy
Blackburn	Budd	Collins

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

#### NAYS—46

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

#### NOT VOTING—2

Fetterman	Lummis
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The nomination was confirmed.

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

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

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.

#### VOTE ON LEWIS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Lewis nomination?

Mrs. FISCHER. 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 Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 58, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 589 Ex.]

#### YEAS—58

Banks	Capito	Cruz
Barrasso	Collins	Curtis
Blackburn	Cornyn	Daines
Boozman	Cotton	Durbin
Britt	Cramer	Ernst
Budd	Crapo	Fischer

Graham	Lee	Rounds
Grassley	Lummis	Schiff
Hagerty	Marshall	Schmitt
Hassan	McConnell	Scott (FL)
Hawley	McCormick	Scott (SC)
Hoeben	Moody	Sheehy
Husted	Moran	Sullivan
Hyde-Smith	Moreno	Thune
Johnson	Mullin	Tillis
Justice	Murkowski	Tuberville
Kaine	Paul	Wicker
Kennedy	Peters	Young
King	Ricketts	
Lankford	Risch	

## NAYS—40

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Schatz
Baldwin	Kelly	Schumer
Bennet	Kim	Shaheen
Blumenthal	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Blunt Rochester	Lujan	Smith
Booker	Markey	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Merkley	Warner
Coons	Murphy	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murray	Warren
Duckworth	Ossoff	Welch
Galleo	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Reed	Wyden
Heinrich	Rosen	
Hickenlooper	Sanders	

## NOT VOTING—2

Cassidy	Fetterman
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The nomination was confirmed.

(Mr. MORENO assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). 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.

(Mr. MORENO assumed the Chair.)

The Senator from Nebraska.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in 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 INNOVATIVE MANUFACTURING &amp; ENGINEERING

• 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 Innovative Manufacturing & Engineering of Polk County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 2011 by Todd Freeland, Innovative Manufacturing & Engineering grew out of a small family farm operation that began back in 2003. What started as an idea has grown into a thriving precision manufacturing company built on innovation, integrity, and collaboration. Co-owned by Todd Freeland, Matthew Sawhill, and Brandon Dahms, the business provides computer numerical controlled, CNC, ma-

chined and milled parts, which are precision-engineered components created by computer-controlled tools that shape raw materials into exact dimensions and designs. By leveraging advanced machining technology and automation systems, Innovative Manufacturing & Engineering produces components that meet demanding specifications for clients across agriculture, industrial supply, food, transportation, and the construction industries. Their flexible and collaborative approach allows them to take on both large-scale operations and specialized projects, bringing complex ideas to life with exceptional accuracy and care. Over the years, they have earned a strong reputation for combining craftsmanship with modern technology, ensuring that every part meets the highest industry standards.

At the heart of Innovative Manufacturing & Engineering is a simple yet powerful philosophy: "Precision meets people meets passion." With a team of 14 dedicated employees, the company takes pride in its close customer relationships and its efforts to build Iowa's future workforce. Through partnerships with local community colleges, the business introduces students to advanced manufacturing, helping them gain the technical skills and hands-on experience needed to succeed in a rapidly changing industry. These collaborations strengthen both local communities and the State's manufacturing sector, ensuring continued innovation and opportunity. Their commitment to innovation and continuous improvement has fueled over a decade of steady growth and earned them deep respect within the industry.

Innovative Manufacturing & Engineering continues to push the boundaries of what is possible in precision engineering, helping fuel progress in industries that keep Iowa and the Nation moving forward. Through hard work and vision, Todd, Matthew, and Brandon have built more than a successful business; they have created a legacy that inspires others in the manufacturing industry.

It is my honor to recognize Todd Freeland, Matthew Sawhill, Brandon Dahms, and the entire Innovative Manufacturing & Engineering team for their entrepreneurial spirit, outstanding work, and dedication to their community. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead. •

## TRIBUTE TO STACEY MORTENSEN

• Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Stacey Mortensen, who is retiring after nearly 30 years of outstanding public service, including her noteworthy tenure as executive director of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission.

A Fortuna, CA, native raised in Concord, Stacey developed a passion for transportation early on in her professional career. After earning a degree in

environmental planning and management from the University of California, Davis, she began her vocation by conducting traffic counts with the city of Vacaville, a humble beginning that led to Stacey's pioneering role in shaping rail service across California's Central Valley and beyond.

Stacey was at the forefront of initial efforts to develop rail service between Silicon Valley and Stockton. She was working at the San Joaquin County Department of Public Works when the manager of the rail planning section departed suddenly. Stacey stepped into that role and was soon chosen as executive director of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission. In 1998, under her stalworth leadership, the Altamont Corridor Express, ACE, was launched. ACE connected San Joaquin, Santa Clara, and Alameda Counties with a new model of regional rail service. Stacey oversaw ACE's design, procurement, funding, negotiations, and infrastructure development.

Among her many accomplishments, Stacey was essential in the creation and expansion of the Valley Rail Program, which united more than 20 regional agencies to expand passenger rail service across Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Sacramento Counties and led to the formation of the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority.

In addition, Stacey helped formulate the Stockton Diamond Grade Separation Project, one of California's largest rail infrastructure projects that aims to eliminate one of the country's most congested rail crossings. She also assisted with the launch of the Rail Academy of Central California, a workforce development program that trains the next generation of rail professionals.

Under Stacey's exemplary guidance, the rail maintenance facility, operated by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, became a national model for environmental standards and efficiency. Along with supporting ACE operations, the facility provides maintenance for many different trains, establishing a regional hub of rail knowledge and expertise that employs over 200 people.

As Stacey leaves her position with the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, her legacy as a transformative force in California's transportation arena will continue through the innovative, enduring impact of her work. I ask all Members to join me in thanking Stacey Mortensen for nearly three decades of leadership and excellence in California's regional transportation network. •

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

## EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

PRIVILEGED NOMINATION  
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator JOHN BOOZMAN, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Stella Herrell, of New Mexico, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, vice Adrienne Wojciechowski, resigned.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BOOZMAN, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, without amendment:

H.R. 197. An act to provide for a land exchange in the Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota, and for other purposes.

S. 277. A bill to release a Federal reversionary interest and convey mineral interests in Chester County, Tennessee, and for other purposes.

S. 638. A bill to amend the Act of June 22, 1948.

S. 1262. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to release a reversionary interest in certain land in the Black River State Forest in Millston, Wisconsin, and for other purposes.

S. 1350. A bill to modify the boundaries of the Talladega National Forest, and for other purposes.

S. 1376. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Benton MacKaye Trail as a national scenic trail.

By Mr. BOOZMAN, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1462. A bill to improve forest management activities on National Forest System land, public land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and Tribal land to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested land, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BOOZMAN, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, without amendment:

H.R. 1612. An act to designate the Flatside-Bethune Wilderness in the Ouachita National Forest, and for other purposes.

S. 1680. A bill to designate additions to the Rough Mountain Wilderness and the Rich Hole Wilderness of the George Washington National Forest, and for other purposes.

S. 1681. A bill to establish the Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area in the State of Virginia, and for other purposes.

S. 1876. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to relocate a memorial honoring the 9 Air Force crew members who lost their lives in an airplane crash in the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests during a training mission on August 31, 1982.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2440. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain National Forest System land located in Franklin County, Mississippi, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BOOZMAN, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2548. A bill to designate the Camp Hutchins Wilderness and establish Special Management Areas in the Shawnee National Forest in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes.

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. BUDD (for himself, Mrs. MOODY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 3056. A bill to state the policy of the United States with respect to religious freedom in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 3057. A bill to reduce the annual rate of pay of Members of Congress if a Government shutdown occurs during a year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 3058. A bill to provide appropriations to the Secretary of Agriculture to provide payments to agricultural producers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. ALSOBROOKS):

S. 3059. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to require the Commissioner of Social Security to use the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers for purposes of determining cost-of-living adjustments under titles II, VIII, and XVI of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND  
SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. GALLEG0, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 467. A resolution designating October 30, 2025, as a national day of remembrance for the workers of the nuclear weapons program of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. Res. 468. A resolution designating October 26, 2025, as the "Day of the Deployed"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 469. A resolution designating the week of October 19 through 25, 2025, as "National Chemistry Week"; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 488

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 488, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons that engage in certain transactions relating to Cuba and to impose sanctions with respect to human rights abuse and corruption in Cuba, and for other purposes.

S. 494

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) 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. 502

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 502, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore State authority to waive for certain facilities the 35-mile rule for designating critical access hospitals under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 752

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 752, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines.

S. 969

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 969, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny interest and depreciation deductions for taxpayers owning 50 or more single family properties.

S. 1245

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1245, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand health care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 1532

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) 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. 1538

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

S. 1552

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Louisiana

(Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1552, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 1919

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1919, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a domestic cotton consumption credit.

S. 1978

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1978, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to establish a network of regional hubs to foster innovation, collaboration, and rapid development of defense-related technologies, and for other purposes.

S. 1996

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1996, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve coverage of audiology services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2229

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) 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. 2323

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2323, a bill to amend the Head Start Act to permit some teachers in Early Head Start programs to teach while earning a child development associate credential.

S. 2518

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2518, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise payment for air ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 2903

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor 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. 2909

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2909, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to revise certain regulations with respect to farm-related service industry restricted commercial driver's licenses, and for other purposes.

S. 2982

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 2983

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2983, a bill to reauthorize the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015.

S. 2993

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2993, a bill to establish appropriate rules for prosecutors and Federal judges to carry a concealed firearm.

S. 3024

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3024, a bill to appropriate funds to ensure uninterrupted benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

S. 3030

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3030, a bill making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown, and for other purposes.

S. 3031

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3031, a bill making continuing appropriations for essential Federal Aviation Administration and Transportation Security Administration pay and operations in the event of a Federal Government shutdown, and for other purposes.

S. 3032

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr.

WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3032, a bill to extend the authority for the protection of certain facilities and assets from unmanned aircraft.

S. 3035

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3035, a bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to provide for expanded natural gas exports, and for other purposes.

S. 3048

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3048, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow for the use of telehealth in substance use disorder treatment, and for other purposes.

S. 3054

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3054, a bill to amend the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 and the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance efforts to combat the trafficking of children.

S. RES. 463

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 463, a resolution expressing condemnation of the Chinese Communist Party's persecution of religious minority groups, including Christians, Muslims, and Buddhists and the detention of Pastor "Ezra" Jin Mingri and leaders of the Zion Church, and reaffirming the United States' global commitment to promote religious freedom and tolerance.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 467—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 30, 2025, AS A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE WORKERS OF THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. GALLEGOS, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 467

Whereas, since World War II, hundreds of thousands of patriotic men and women, including uranium miners, millers, and haulers, plutonium processors, and onsite participants at atmospheric nuclear weapons tests, have served the United States by building nuclear weapons for the defense of the United States;

Whereas dedicated workers paid a high price for advancing a nuclear weapons program at the service and for the benefit of the

United States, including by developing disabling or fatal illnesses;

Whereas the Senate recognized the contributions, services, and sacrifices that those patriotic men and women made for the defense of the United States in—

(1) Senate Resolution 151, 111th Congress, agreed to May 20, 2009;

(2) Senate Resolution 653, 111th Congress, agreed to September 28, 2010;

(3) Senate Resolution 275, 112th Congress, agreed to September 26, 2011;

(4) Senate Resolution 519, 112th Congress, agreed to August 1, 2012;

(5) Senate Resolution 164, 113th Congress, agreed to September 18, 2013;

(6) Senate Resolution 417, 113th Congress, agreed to July 9, 2014;

(7) Senate Resolution 213, 114th Congress, agreed to September 25, 2015;

(8) Senate Resolution 560, 114th Congress, agreed to November 16, 2016;

(9) Senate Resolution 314, 115th Congress, agreed to October 30, 2017;

(10) Senate Resolution 682, 115th Congress, agreed to October 11, 2018;

(11) Senate Resolution 377, 116th Congress, agreed to October 30, 2019;

(12) Senate Resolution 741, 116th Congress, agreed to September 30, 2020;

(13) Senate Resolution 438, 117th Congress, agreed to February 25, 2022;

(14) Senate Resolution 785, 117th Congress, agreed to December 22, 2022;

(15) Senate Resolution 452, 118th Congress, agreed to November 6, 2023; and

(16) Senate Resolution 889, 118th Congress, agreed to November 14, 2024; and

Whereas those patriotic men and women deserve to be recognized for the contributions, services, and sacrifices they made for the defense of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 30, 2025, as a national day of remembrance for the workers of the nuclear weapons program of the United States, including the uranium miners, millers, and haulers, plutonium processors, and onsite participants at atmospheric nuclear weapons tests; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to support and participate in appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities to commemorate October 30, 2025, as a national day of remembrance for past and present workers of the nuclear weapons program of the United States.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 468—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 26, 2025, AS THE “DAY OF THE DEPLOYED”

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Whereas more than 2,000,000 individuals serve as members of the Armed Forces of the United States, including the reserve components of the Armed Forces;

Whereas several hundred thousand members of the Armed Forces are currently serving overseas in every region of the world;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 members of the Armed Forces have deployed to the area of operations of the United States Central Command since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;

Whereas, in the decades following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, members of the Armed Forces deployed in 2 major conflicts and countless operations throughout the world, and their service and bravery helped protect the United States from further terrorist attacks;

Whereas the United States is kept strong and free by the loyal military personnel from the total force of the Armed Forces, which includes the active duty components and the reserve components, who protect the precious heritage of the United States through their declarations and actions;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces have deployed to the Middle East to defend United States security interests, deter aggression, prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and promote stability in the region;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces serving at home and abroad have courageously answered the call of duty to defend the ideals of the United States and to preserve peace and freedom around the world;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces are called upon to respond to an increasingly complex and wide-ranging set of global threats to the United States;

Whereas the courage, professionalism, and sacrifice of these deployed forces represent the highest traditions of the United States military;

Whereas the United States remains committed to easing the transition from deployment abroad to service at home for members of the Armed Forces and their families;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces personify the virtues of patriotism, dedication, courage, and steadfast service;

Whereas the families of members of the Armed Forces make important and significant sacrifices for the United States; and

Whereas the Senate has designated October 26 as the “Day of the Deployed” since 2011: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 26, 2025, as the “Day of the Deployed”;

(2) honors the deployed members of the Armed Forces of the United States and their families;

(3) calls on the people of the United States to reflect on the service of those members of the Armed Forces, wherever the members serve, past, present, and future; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe the “Day of the Deployed” with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 469—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 19 THROUGH 25, 2025, AS “NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK”

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 469

Whereas chemistry is the science of the basic units of matter and, consequently, plays a role in every aspect of human life;

Whereas chemistry has broad applications, including food science, soil science, water quality, energy, sustainability, medicine, and electronics;

Whereas the science of chemistry is vital to improving the quality of human life and plays an important role in addressing critical global challenges;

Whereas innovations in chemistry continue to spur economic growth and job creation and have applications for a wide range of industries;

Whereas the practitioners of chemistry are catalysts of positive change in their communities and the world;

Whereas National Chemistry Week is part of a broader vision to improve human life through chemistry and to advance the chemistry enterprise;

Whereas the purpose of National Chemistry Week is to reach the public with educational messages about chemistry in order to foster greater understanding of and appreciation for the applications and benefits of chemistry;

Whereas National Chemistry Week strives to stimulate the interest of young people, including women and underrepresented groups, in enthusiastically studying science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and in pursuing science-related careers that lead to innovations and major scientific breakthroughs;

Whereas National Chemistry Week signifies the collaborative nature of science and promotes partnership between scientific societies, academia, industry, and the public;

Whereas National Chemistry Week highlights many of the everyday uses of chemistry, including in food, dyes and pigments, plastics, soaps and detergents, health products, and energy technologies;

Whereas the theme of the 36th annual National Chemistry Week is “The Hidden Life of Spices”; and

Whereas students who participate in National Chemistry Week deserve recognition and support for their efforts: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on October 19, 2025, as “National Chemistry Week”;

(2) supports the goals and welcomes the participants of the 36th annual National Chemistry Week;

(3) recognizes the need to promote the fields of science, including chemistry, technology, engineering, and mathematics and to encourage youth, including from underrepresented groups, to pursue careers in these fields; and

(4) commends—

(A) the American Chemicals Society (ACS) and the partners of that society for seeking opportunities to engage with the public and for organizing and convening events and activities surrounding National Chemistry Week each year;

(B) the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE) for leading collaborative engagement in National Chemistry Week;

(C) the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) for leading collaborative engagement in National Chemistry Week; and

(D) the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) for leading collaborative engagement in National Chemistry Week.

#### RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 467, S. Res. 468, and S. Res. 469.

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

Mr. RICKETTS. 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 (S. Res. 467, S. Res. 468, and S. Res. 469) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m., Tuesday, October 28; 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, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions filed on October 23 ripen at 11:35 a.m. I further ask that the Senate recess following the cloture vote on the Pratt nomination, until 2:15 p.m., to allow for the weekly conference meetings; and that

at 2:20 p.m., if cloture is invoked, the Senate vote on confirmation of the Pratt nomination; finally, that 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. RICKETTS. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:04 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

#### COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

MICHAEL SELIG, OF FLORIDA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION, VICE ROSTIN BEHNAM.

MICHAEL SELIG, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2029, VICE CHRISTY GOLDSMITH ROMERO, TERM EXPIRED.

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate October 27, 2025:

##### THE JUDICIARY

BILL LEWIS, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA.  
REBECCA L. TAIBLESON, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT.

#### WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on October 27, 2025 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

JOEL RAYBURN, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS), VICE BARBARA A. LEAF, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON FEBRUARY 11, 2025.