United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 172 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026 No. 152

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.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 and everlasting God, we open our hearts to You with humble gratitude for the precious gift of another day. Lord, thank You for the blessings of life, for Your unfailing love, and for Your mercy that brings us the unfolding of Your loving providence. Continue to watch over our Senators. Renew, revitalize, and refresh their spirits. Give them strength for today, peace for their hearts, and clarity for their minds.

Lord, have mercy upon our Nation and the world in these turbulent times. Give the Members of our branches of government Your wisdom, truth, and righteousness that will guide them in their leadership. Provide them with wisdom beyond their own understanding, patience in moments of disagreement, and discernment in difficult decisions.

We pray in Your magnificent 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. SHEEHY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROTECT COLLEGE SPORTS ACT OF 2026—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 4668, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4668) to protect the name, image, and likeness rights of, and provide protections for, student athletes and to promote fair competition among intercollegiate athletics, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Thune (for Cruz) amendment No. 6776, in the nature of a substitute.

Thune amendment No. 6777 (to amendment No. 6776), to change the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 6778 (to amendment No. 6777), of a perfecting nature.

Thune amendment No. 6779 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 6776), to change the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 6780 (to amendment No. 6779), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President pro tempore.

HEALTHCARE FRAUD

Mr. GRASSLEY. Happy news in the fight against fraud: This week, the White House Task Force to Eliminate Fraud took steps to stop fraud and to prevent bad actors from gaming ObamaCare.

The administration is working to stop fraudulent and improper ObamaCare enrollment. Now, just think, over 600,000 consumers attested to unauthorized enrollment or plan switching.

This task force has the potential to save billions in taxpayer dollars. This action will ensure resources are only going to those who are eligible and have signed up or authorized their enrollment.

Too often, taxpayer money is lost to fraud, waste, and abuse. This not only wastes taxpayer dollars, but it also limits how effectively those dollars could be used to help the most vulnerable: those people that Medicaid and ObamaCare were intended to serve.

The administration's action complements my work in the Senate and the work of Iowa's Representatives HINSON, MILLER-MEEKS, NUNN, and FEENSTRA in the House, accomplished when we passed the 2025 Working Families Tax Cut law.

The tax cuts law not only prevented the largest tax increase in American history, but it also established program integrity reforms to stop fraud, waste, and abuse as well as preserve programs like Medicaid and ObamaCare.

In the past year, I have come to this floor highlighting how my own oversight along with inspector general audits and Government Accountability Office reports have found taxpayer dollars being wasted on deceased enrollment and providers, enrollees participating in two different State Medicaid Programs and who are dually enrolled in Medicaid and ObamaCare, excess ObamaCare subsidies not being paid back, and consumers being fraudulently enrolled in ObamaCare.

The Working Families Tax Cut Act put an end to much of this fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicaid and Obama programs.

To bolster these efforts, last month I introduced a bill with the title ''Healthcare Fraud Prevention and Improvement Act.'' This bill will improve and will invest in the Healthcare Fraud and Abuse Control Program. That program was created to combat fraud across Federal health programs. But that program needs improvement.

Federal healthcare spending is expected to exceed $24 trillion over the next decade. Through the Working Families Tax Cut Act and by improving the Healthcare Fraud and Abuse Control Program, we can crack down on bad actors stealing the taxpayer's money and really protect resources for the most vulnerable Americans.

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

Printed on recycled paper.