

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

WORKING TOGETHER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, let me say that it has been a long, long road for both sides. Each side had sincere convictions, and we are at this point.

I want to say three things. First, I suggest that we turn the page. It is time to turn the page.

I say to my dear friend the majority leader that we are not celebrating. We are relieved that millions and millions of people who would have been so drastically hurt by the three proposals put forward will, at least, retain their healthcare, be able to deal with pre-existing conditions, deal with nursing homes and opioids that Medicaid has paid for.

We are relieved, not for ourselves, but for the American people. But as I have said over and over again, ObamaCare was hardly perfect. It did a lot of good things, but it needs improvement. I hope one part of turning that page is that we go back to regular order, work in the committees together to improve ObamaCare.

We have good leaders—the Senator from Tennessee, the Senator from Washington, the Senator from Utah, the Senator from Oregon. They have worked well together in the past and can work well together in the future. There are suggestions we are interested in that come from Members on the other side of the aisle—the Senator from Maine and the Senator from Louisiana.

So let's turn the page and work together to improve our healthcare system, and let's turn the page in another way. All of us are so inspired by the speech and the life of the Senator from Arizona, and he asked us to go back to regular order, to bring back the Senate that some of us who have been here a while remember. Maybe this can be a moment where we start doing that.

Both sides will have to give. The blame hardly falls on one side or the other, but if we can take this moment—a solemn moment—and start working this body the way it had always worked until the last decade or so, with both sides to blame for the deterioration, we will do a better job for our country, a better job for this body, a better job for ourselves.

Finally, I am glad that the leader asked us to move to NDAA. We need to do it. I can say that on this side of the aisle, we will move expeditiously. I know that the Senator from Rhode Island has worked with the Senator from Arizona on a list of amendments that can be agreed to, and we can finish this bill up rather quickly. As I mentioned to the majority leader, there are some other things we can do rather quickly, including moving a whole lot of nominations.

We can work together. Our country demands it. Every place in every corner of the country where we go, the No. 1 thing we are asked—and I know this because I have talked to my colleagues from the other side of the aisle—is: Can't you guys work together? Let's give it a shot. Let's give it a shot.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I just want to announce to all my colleagues that the next vote will be at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, on cloture on Kevin Newsom to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit. There will be no more votes tonight.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 172, Kevin Newsom to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kevin Christopher Newsom, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Kevin Christopher Newsom, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Dan Sullivan, John Barrasso, John Cornyn, Orrin G. Hatch, Ron Johnson, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Richard Burr, James Lankford, Lamar Alexander, John Kennedy, Cory Gardner, James M. Inhofe, Michael B. Enzi, John Thune, Richard C. Shelby, Mitch McConnell.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the cloture motion be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

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

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

SERVICEMEMBER STUDENT LOAN AFFORDABILITY ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, student loan borrowers currently carry about \$1.4 trillion in student loan debt. This crushing debt has pushed many borrowers to delay important life decisions, including marriage, having children, or buying homes. Despite that, some still choose careers in public service to give back to their community and support our country.

However, the immense burden of student loan debt is not put on pause while individuals choose to forgo other work opportunities to serve our Nation in the military or public service. Recognizing this, the Federal Government established two ways to alleviate some of this burden for those who serve our country.

The Servicemember Civil Relief Act protects our servicemembers from interest rates above 6 percent on all loans while they are on Active Duty. This protection extends to both public and private student loans taken out preservice.

Public service loan forgiveness encourages people to become public servants by forgiving student loan debt after 10 years of public service, including military service. Under this program; borrowers must enroll in a qualifying repayment plan and make 10 years of payments while working in public service before the loan is forgiven. Additionally, borrowers with Perkins or Federal Family Education Loans must consolidate their loans into a Direct Consolidation Loan.

However, the act of consolidating these loans carries an unintended consequence for servicemembers. Currently, if a servicemember chooses to consolidate his or her preservice loans to qualify for public service loan forgiveness, those loans are no longer eligible for the 6 percent interest rate cap provided under the Servicemember Civil Relief Act. The act of consolidating old debt for the purpose of enrolling public service loan forgiveness is treated as creating a new loan under current law, effectively forcing servicemembers to choose between the 6 percent interest rate cap while they are on Active Duty and enrolling in a program that will forgive their loans after 10 years of service and steady payments.

Requiring servicemembers to give up the interest rate cap while on Active Duty for a chance to earn loan forgiveness in the future was never the intention of Congress. Rather, in enacting the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program and the Servicemember Civil

Relief Act, Congress intended to support servicemembers burdened with student loan debt. We owe it to our servicemen to fix this unintended consequence.

This week, Senator DUCKWORTH and I reintroduced the Servicemember Student Loan Affordability Act. This bill would allow preservice private or Federal student loan debt to be consolidated or refinanced while retaining the 6 percent interest rate cap. This minor change to the law will have a significant impact on servicemembers with student loan debt by allowing them to get the benefits Congress intended for them.

The bill is supported by the American Legion, the Association of United States Navy, the National Guard Association of the United States, the Retired Enlisted Association, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veteran Education Success, The Institute of College Access and Success, and the National Education Association.

I urge my colleagues to consider this simple solution to help servicemembers. I hope they will join Senator Duckworth and myself and support the Servicemember Student Loan Affordability Act.

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 3, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017, allows the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to revise the allocations, aggregates, and levels in the budget resolution for legislation related to healthcare reform. The authority to adjust is contingent on the legislation not increasing the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2017 to 2026.

I find that amendment No. 667 fulfills the conditions of deficit neutrality found in section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 3. Accordingly, I am revising the allocations to the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, HELP and the budgetary aggregates to account for the budget effects of the amendment. I am also adjusting the unassigned to committee savings levels in the budget resolution to reflect that while there are savings in the amendment attributable to both the HELP and Finance Committees, the Congressional Budget Office and Joint Committee on Taxation are unable to produce unique estimates for each provision due to interactions and other effects that are estimated simultaneously.

This adjustment supersedes the adjustment I previously made for the processing of amendment No. 267. This adjustment applies while this amendment is under consideration. Should the amendment be withdrawn, fail, or lose its pending status, this adjustment will be null and void and the adjustment for amendment No. 267 shall remain active.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables, which provide de-

tails about the adjustment, be printed in the RECORD.

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

BUDGET AGGREGATES—BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAYS

(Pursuant to Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 3, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2017)

	\$s in millions	2017
Current Aggregates:		
Spending:		
Budget Authority		3,329,289
Outlays		3,268,171
Adjustments:		
Spending:		
Budget Authority		1,400
Outlays		-1,000
Revised Aggregates:		
Spending:		
Budget Authority		3,330,689
Outlays		3,267,171

BUDGET AGGREGATE—REVENUES

(Pursuant to Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 3, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2017)

	\$s in millions	2017	2017–2021	2017–2026
Current Aggregates:				
Revenue:				
Revenue		2,682,088	14,498,573	32,351,660
Adjustments:				
Revenue:				
Revenue		-5,400	-73,300	-145,700
Revised Aggregates:				
Revenue:				
Revenue		2,676,688	14,425,273	32,205,960

REVISION TO ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

(Pursuant to Section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 3, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2017)

	\$s in millions	2017	2017–2021	2017–2026
Current Allocation:				
Budget Authority:				
Budget Authority		2,277,203	13,101,022	31,274,627
Outlays		2,262,047	13,073,093	31,233,186
Adjustments:				
Budget Authority:				
Budget Authority		-1,000	-80,400	-275,700
Outlays		-1,000	-80,400	-275,700
Revised Allocation:				
Budget Authority:				
Budget Authority		2,276,203	13,020,622	30,998,927
Outlays		2,261,047	12,992,693	30,957,486

REVISION TO ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

(Pursuant to Section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 3, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2017)

	\$s in millions	2017	2017–2021	2017–2026
Current Allocation:				
Budget Authority:				
Budget Authority		17,204	90,282	176,893
Outlays		15,841	89,820	183,421
Adjustments:				
Budget Authority:				
Budget Authority		2,400	-500	-8,700
Outlays		0	1,000	-5,600
Revised Allocation:				
Budget Authority:				
Budget Authority		19,604	89,782	168,193
Outlays		15,841	90,820	177,821

COUNTERING AMERICA'S ADVERSARIES BILL

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I voted in support of H.R. 3364, the Countering America's Adversaries Act, which sanctions Russia, Iran, and North Korea. I call on President Trump to sign this package into law, without delay.

This act imposes tough sanctions on Russia for its interference in our elections, its attempts to undermine faith in the democratic process across the West, its support of the brutal regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, and its intervention in Ukraine. Criti-

cally, the legislation prevents President Trump—who has repeatedly demonstrated his affinity for Vladimir Putin—from removing sanctions on Russia without the approval of the Congress. It sends a clear and unequivocal message to the Kremlin: the United States will not tolerate attacks on our democracy.

The administration has repeatedly certified Iran's compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. This landmark, multilateral nuclear accord is a critical part of our effort to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and has made our partners and allies in the region safer. However, Iran's ballistic missile tests, its support for regional terrorism, and its human rights abuses merit a strong response. This act codifies executive orders sanctioning Iran for these dangerous, nonnuclear actions.

Our response to North Korea—which U.S. officials now believe will be able to field a reliable, nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile as early as next year—must be bold and comprehensive. While I support the sanctions imposed on North Korea under the Countering America's Adversaries Act, I believe they fall far short of the aggressive sanctions needed to sever North Korea's ties to the international financial system and create the leverage necessary for successful nuclear negotiations. That is why I strongly urge the Senate to pass the Banking Restrictions Involving North Korea Act, which I introduced with Senator TOOMEY. I look forward to working expeditiously with my colleagues to pass comprehensive sanctions on North Korea in the fall.

NOMINATION OF JOHN K. BUSH II

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I cannot support John K. Bush II's nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Mr. Bush does not possess the temperament or discernment required of a Federal judge. He is not only a deeply flawed nominee; he is unqualified for a lifetime judicial appointment.

William Howard Taft, 27th President of the United States, 10th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and a judge on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, once said, "Don't write so that you can be understood, write so that you can't be misunderstood." Mr. Bush's more than 400 blog posts, written under a pseudonym, cannot be misunderstood despite his attempts to distance himself from his writings. In his blog posts, Mr. Bush equated a woman's right to an abortion to chattel slavery, advanced spurious claims based on conspiracy theories propagated by White supremacists, advocated violence and use of force against Democratic opponents, argued that journalist's First Amendment rights should be weakened, and advocated for unlimited amounts of money in politics.

When asked to clarify his past written statements during his confirmation