

So now, unfortunately, a continuing resolution is the only option our Armed Forces have this evening. Let's not pretend for a moment—not a moment—that our men and women in uniform and their families benefit from a government shutdown.

This is how we got here. My Democratic colleagues' demand on illegal immigration, at the behest of their far-left base, have crowded out all other important business. They have crowded it all out over the issue of illegal immigration. Now they are threatening to crowd out the needs of veterans, military families, opioid treatment centers, and every other American who relies on the Federal Government, all over illegal immigration.

There is no imminent deadline facing the DACA Program. Congress has at least until March to arrive at a bipartisan solution that is acceptable to Republicans, Democrats, and the person who needs to sign the bill—the President of the United States. Do veterans, opioid treatment centers, and the families of fallen soldiers need to suffer before a compromise is reached?

Democratic Senators' fixation on illegal immigration has already blocked us from making progress on long-term spending talks. Now, that same fixation over illegal immigration has them threatening to filibuster funding for the whole government.

Years ago, my friend, the Democratic leader, described how irresponsible it would be to shut down the government over the issue of immigration. He said it would result in "governmental chaos." That is what my friend, the Democratic leader, said a while back, but earlier today on the floor, he insisted that we put every other American priority on hold—put it on hold—until we resolve immigration. Only then, he said, can we work on defense spending or domestic spending or CHIP or disaster relief—put all of that on hold over the issue of illegal immigration with no imminent deadline. It only needs to be addressed by March.

Well, that is apparently how our Democratic colleagues rank their priorities. It is not how I would rank mine. I don't think it is how many of our colleagues on either side would rank theirs either, but we will have a chance to find out in the coming days.

It is certainly not how the American people expect us to act. I think the American people clearly would not expect us to act this way.

The bill before us is an opportunity to correct course. It is a chance for my colleagues to remember that we represent millions and millions of American citizens.

The American people want the Federal Government open for veterans, military families, and the vulnerable. They want food and drug inspections to continue without interruption. They want death benefits to continue to go out to the families of servicemembers killed in action. They want children in low-income families to continue receiv-

ing health coverage through SCHIP. They want a sensible compromise on immigration. But they cannot for the life of them understand why—why—some Senators would hold the entire country hostage until we arrive at a solution to a problem that doesn't fully materialize until March.

Military families, veterans, and children benefiting from the SCHIP program don't need to be shoved aside—they don't need to be shoved aside—while we continue good-faith negotiations. So we ought to pass this resolution, and we ought to get back to work.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I will have much more to say after this vote on the motion to proceed, which Democrats will support because we want to move forward. We want to get something done. We don't want to keep kicking the can down the road. But I just had to answer the leader, briefly.

The leader is looking to deflect blame, but it just won't work. We all know what the problem is; it is complete disarray on the Republican side.

The bottom line is very simple. Our Republican leader has said that he will not negotiate until he knows where President Trump stands. That is why negotiations haven't gotten anywhere. Let me quote. Here is what the leader said just yesterday: "I am looking for something that President Trump is going to support, and he has not yet indicated what measure he is willing to sign." MITCH MCCONNELL said that he still has to "figure out what the President is for." How can you negotiate when the President, who has to sign the legislation, is like a sphinx on this issue or says one thing one day and one thing the next?

So here is what we can do to solve the problem. We could solve it right now. The four leaders could sit down—there has been a lot of discussion—and come to an agreement and do what the President said at one point: Send it to his desk and he will sign it. We could get that done before the deadline of tomorrow night expires, or we could give the President a few days to come to the table, now that he knows this plan won't work, and we could get this done in a few short days and not kick the can down the road.

This is the fourth CR that we have done and accomplished nothing. There is no promise and no likelihood that another kicking of the can down the road will get something done. We have to sit down together and solve this, with the President or without. Until that happens, no amount of CRs will get this done.

I would suggest we all vote for the motion to proceed but instead move a very short-term CR, and we will either negotiate it ourselves or the President will join us, and we can get the job done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, not to prolong the debate, but the Presidency under our constitutional system is not irrelevant. He is the person who signs things into law. And most of us in the House and Senate on the Republican side are interested in what his views are, and those have not been made fully apparent yet.

What we have before us deals with a real emergency—tomorrow night at midnight. What our friends on the other side are pushing is not an emergency. It doesn't have anything to do with what is before us. It is completely irrelevant to the issue of avoiding a government shutdown and taking care of 300 million Americans, most of whom depend on the government in one way or another.

FEDERAL REGISTER PRINTING SAVINGS ACT OF 2017—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I understand the Senate has received a message from the House to accompany H.R. 195.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany H.R. 195 and ask for the yeas and nays on my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 13 Leg.]

YEAS—97

Alexander	Durbin	Manchin
Baldwin	Enzi	Markey
Barrasso	Ernst	McCaskill
Bennet	Feinstein	McConnell
Blumenthal	Fischer	Menendez
Blunt	Flake	Merkley
Booker	Gardner	Moran
Boozman	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Brown	Graham	Murphy
Burr	Grassley	Murray
Cantwell	Harris	Nelson
Capito	Hassan	Perdue
Cardin	Hatch	Peters
Carper	Heinrich	Portman
Casey	Heitkamp	Reed
Cassidy	Heller	Risch
Cochran	Hirono	Roberts
Collins	Hoeven	Rounds
Coons	Inhofe	Rubio
Corker	Isakson	Sanders
Cornyn	Johnson	Sasse
Cortez Masto	Jones	Schatz
Cotton	Kaine	Schumer
Crapo	Kennedy	Scott
Cruz	King	Shaheen
Daines	Klobuchar	Shelby
Donnelly	Lankford	Smith
Duckworth	Leahy	Stabenow

Sullivan	Udall	Wicker
Tester	Van Hollen	Wyden
Thune	Warner	Young
Tillis	Warren	
Toomey	Whitehouse	

NAYS—2

Lee Paul

NOT VOTING—1

McCain

The motion was agreed to.

FEDERAL REGISTER PRINTING SAVINGS ACT OF 2017

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate the Message from the House.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 195) entitled “An Act to amend title 44, United States Code, to restrict the distribution of free printed copies of the Federal Register to Members of Congress and other officers and employees of the United States, and for other purposes.”, with an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 195.

I ask unanimous consent that there now be up to 10 minutes of debate, equally divided, on the motion to concur and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the motion to concur with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SCHUMER. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I would simply like to read a statement from Dana W. White, chief Pentagon spokesperson:

We have been working under a Continuing Resolution for three years now. Our current CR expires tomorrow, 19 Jan. This is wasteful and destructive. We need a fully-funded FY18 budget or face ramifications on our military.

The leader wants to move that very CR that the Pentagon objects to even without a 60-vote margin. I strenuously object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The majority leader.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk on the motion to concur.

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 motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 195.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, Marco Rubio, Deb Fischer, John Barrasso, Richard Burr, John Cornyn, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven, Richard C. Shelby, Tom Cotton, Joni Ernst, James M. Inhofe, Shelley Moore Capito, Steve Daines, James Lankford, Roy Blunt.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 1903

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 195, with a further amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] moves to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 195, with an amendment numbered 1903.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment.”

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on the motion to concur with amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1904 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1903

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 1904 to amendment No. 1903.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

Strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 1905

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to refer the House message on H.R. 195 to the Committee on Appropriations to report back forthwith with instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] moves to refer the House message on H.R. 195 to the Committee on Appropriations to report back forthwith with instructions, being amendment numbered 1905.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 3 days after the date of enactment.”

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second. The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1906

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 1906 to the instructions of the motion to refer H.R. 195 to the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

Strike “3 days” and insert “4 days”

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1907 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1906

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 1907 to amendment No. 1906.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike “4” and insert “5”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, to delay a vote on cloture makes no sense when we all know the outcome. The government’s funding expires tomorrow night at midnight. Let’s vote tonight on cloture so we can move forward so, perhaps, we can bring the President to the table—if not, so we can undergo serious negotiations to get things done.

You have just heard from the Pentagon. The Pentagon thinks this CR is wrong for our military. This is again the statement from Dana White, the chief Pentagon spokesperson. I want to repeat it so my colleagues can all hear it.

We have been working under a Continuing Resolution for three years now. Our current CR expires tomorrow, 19 Jan. This is wasteful and destructive. We need a fully-funded FY18 budget or face ramifications on our military.

Because of the urgent needs we face—the military and so many of the others: opioids, veterans, pensions—we should not delay any further. We should move cloture tonight and see the outcome—I think we all know it will be defeated—and start serious negotiations tomorrow morning. That is what we should do.

I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived and that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motion filed on the motion to