



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2018

No. 97

## Senate

The Senate met at 10:03 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MITCH MCCONNELL, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Holy One, Uncreated Creator, Light of Light, we praise Your Holy Name. Lord, You are the joy and strength of our lives. You can remove all pain, misery, and strife.

Be for our lawmakers a source of truth. May they view pressing issues in the light of Your precepts, embracing Your wisdom and power. Give them a passion for compassion and joy, as they remember Your desire that they live abundantly.

Continue to shine in all of our hearts, so that neither the shadow of doubt nor the shadow of death can blind us to the light of Your great love.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, June 12, 2018.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable MITCH MCCONNELL, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,  
President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### TRUMP-KIM SUMMIT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, just a few hours ago, President Trump, Secretary of State Pompeo, National Security Advisor Bolton, and the rest of the American delegation concluded their summit meeting with North Korean officials.

This was a historic first step in an important negotiation. In the words of the joint statement agreed to by the United States and North Korea, both sides have committed to pursuing a lasting and robust peace regime and complete—complete—denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

The next steps in the negotiation will test whether we can get to a verifiable deal that enhances the security of Northeast Asia, our allies, and, of course, the United States.

Resolving this 61-year-old international challenge will take a great deal of hard work. As President Trump explained a few hours ago, “Today is the beginning of the arduous process. Our eyes are wide open.”

I support the goals contained in the joint statement, and I remain supportive of the administration’s stated position as Secretary Pompeo has reiterated: The goal of the United States is the “complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.” If North Korea does not prove willing to follow through, we and our allies must be prepared to restore the policy of maximum pressure.

Today, I congratulate the President on this major step and share his hope

that it will begin a process that leads to a historic peace.

### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on a related matter, history clearly shows us that skillful diplomacy, global peace, and a stronger American military are in no way opposed to one another—quite the opposite. These components of America’s strength are complementary.

As President Reagan explained, “Peace does not exist of its own will. It depends on us, on our courage to build it and guard it and pass it on to future generations.” Yesterday afternoon, the Senate took a step toward doing just that by turning to the John S. McCain 2019 National Defense Authorization Act.

This legislation builds on the landmark bipartisan budget agreement Congress and the President reached earlier this year. That deal established the outlines for the largest year-on-year increase in funding for American Armed Forces in 15 years. Now this NDAA will authorize the use of those resources for the priorities that matter most to the men and women who serve our country and to their commanders who plan for the future.

The legislation will equip our All-Volunteer Force to meet a variety of challenges abroad, but its impact will also be felt right here at home, where servicemembers will receive more top-notch training and expanded support services for themselves and for their families.

The 2019 NDAA includes a pay raise for all Active-Duty personnel—the largest such increase in nearly a decade. It directs billions in new funding to the construction of new family housing and on-base support infrastructure. It expands resources for child and health services as well.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S3729

I know each of my colleagues can testify to the important roles military installations play in communities all across our country. My fellow Kentuckians and I take great pride in Fort Campbell, Fort Knox, and the Blue Grass Army Depot. We are proud that Kentucky is home base to many outstanding units, such as the 101st Airborne Division and those of Kentucky's Air and Army National Guard units.

In our State, as in every State, the military's presence anchors entire communities and offers a constant reminder of the sacrifices that keep us safe. It is our responsibility to support them. I look forward to delivering that support when the Senate votes on the NDAA later this week.

#### WISHING LARRY KUDLOW A SPEEDY RECOVERY

Mr. McCONNELL. Now, Madam President, on another matter, I want to share the Senate's warmest wishes for a speedy recovery for Larry Kudlow, the Director of the National Economic Council and Assistant to the President, who is currently recovering at Walter Reed from what we are told was a small heart attack. Larry is not just a famously happy warrior for pro-growth, pro-opportunity economics; he is also widely regarded as really one of the best guys in Washington. We hope he gets well soon.

#### TAX REFORM

Mr. McCONNELL. Now, Madam President, speaking of the economy, by now it is no secret that under the last administration, our Nation's economic recovery was slow, stunted, and almost exclusively focused on the largest urban centers. Between 2010 and 2016, that is where more than 90 percent of the population growth happened; it is where nearly three-quarters of new jobs went. Most everywhere else—in our smaller cities, small towns, and rural areas—families heard a lot of talk about what my Democratic colleagues called an "economic recovery," but they saw few or none of the effects in these small towns and small communities. So it is no surprise that after seeing their communities suffer under 8 years of Democrats' policies, millions of Americans are ready to take a different route. That is why they elected a Republican President and Republican majorities here in Congress. And we set about implementing our agenda to take money and power out of Washington and put it back in the hands of middle-class families and small businesses all across our country.

But even as the positive effects of these policies have become more and more obvious, they continue to encounter near-complete party-line opposition at every turn. I recall that just 2 or 3 days after President Trump signed our historic tax reform into law, several of my colleagues across the aisle were offering some dramatic predictions.

On Christmas Eve last year, the senior Senator from Montana took to the Bozeman Daily Chronicle with a piece titled "Tax bill a disastrous plan, fails Montana and our future." Quite a pronouncement. It reminded me of the Democratic leader of the House. She said our plan to give tax cuts to middle-class families and businesses would bring about "Armageddon." Armageddon.

How are these prognostications holding up? The new Tax Code is causing Northwestern Energy to pass along millions of dollars in savings to Montana utility customers. My friend Senator DAINES recently shared what tax reform already means to Montana small business owners. In Chester, at Stricks Ag, it means bonuses of nearly \$1,000 for each employee. In Missoula, at Big Sky Brewing, it means worker bonuses and money to purchase new equipment. The same goes for Cabinet Mountain Brewing in Libby. Over in Thompson Falls, tax reform gave Thompson River Lumber the breathing room to buy their first new forklift in 19 years.

These are the workers and job creators whom Senator DAINES bet on when he voted for tax reform and helped make all of this possible. He voted for Montanans to send less to the IRS and keep more of their own hard-earned money to save or invest as they see fit. It is too bad their senior Senator took the opposite approach and tried to block these tax cuts from happening, let alone that Democratic leaders in both Chambers now say they will repeal tax reform if they get the chance. But Republicans will keep picking up the slack and will keep standing up for the American people.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 5515, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5515) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Inhofe/McCain modified amendment No. 2282, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell (for Toomey) amendment No. 2700 (to amendment No. 2282), to require con-

gressional review of certain regulations issued by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.

Reed/Warren amendment No. 2756 (to amendment No. 2700), to require the authorization of appropriation of amounts for the development of new or modified nuclear weapons.

Lee amendment No. 2366 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2282), to clarify that an authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority does not authorize the detention without charge or trial of a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### CONGRATULATING MITCH MCCONNELL AS THE LONGEST SERVING SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, before I begin my remarks, I wish to congratulate our Republican leader on becoming the longest serving Republican leader in the Senate. My friend Leader McCONNELL reached that milestone today.

It is no secret we disagree on a whole lot of issues, both political and philosophical, but that doesn't mean we can't or don't work together or that I don't admire the qualities which help make him the longest serving Republican leader.

He understands his caucus and represents them well. He knows how to fight, and he knows how to cooperate. The job is not an easy one so it is a testament to his qualities that he has done it longer than anyone in the history of the Senate.

#### TRUMP-KIM SUMMIT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on North Korea, in the early hours this morning, President Trump and Chairman Kim met in Singapore for the first meeting between a sitting U.S. President and the leader of North Korea. It was a welcome improvement to see the two of them having a dialogue rather than engaging in name-calling and saber-rattling. Certainly, Americans feel better about talking than name-calling and threats of war, which had characterized the relationship up until now.

Though we are all rooting for diplomacy to succeed, we must be clear-eyed about what a diplomatic success with North Korea looks like. A diplomatic success would be the complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula—nothing less. Why do we say that? It is not to make any political points, but a nuclear North Korea with ICBMs probably presents a greater danger to the United States and the safety and well-being of