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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, August 2, 2019, at 11 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2019

The Senate met at 9:30 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 God, who has created humanity in Your image, look upon us and hear our prayers.

Today, give our lawmakers the desire to do Your will and the energy to complete the tasks that will glorify Your Name. That which they don't know, reveal it; that which they lack, supply it; and that which they doubt, confirm it. Keep them blameless in Your service so that their lives will be living letters causing people to exalt Your Name. Lord, strengthen their minds for Your service so that Your wisdom will permeate their endeavors.

We pray in Your mighty 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 1 minute in morning business.

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

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I think we should save the taxpayers a lot of money by giving States more options under Medicaid.

Unlike Medicare and private insurance, Medicaid doesn't incentivize bundled payments. This prevents States from testing a method that could potentially save money.

The bipartisan prescription drug pricing reform legislation I introduced with Senator WYDEN allows States to collect rebates from drugs in outpatient settings. This removes an existing exemption in statute for some outpatient drugs and allows States to more completely utilize and test bundled payments to possibly save money.

Giving States flexibility allows them to focus on the best care for different populations. Encouraging bundled payments in Medicaid would do just that.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

LINCOLN COUNTY GAS LEAK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, my office and I are closely monitoring a significant explosion of a natural gas transmission pipeline early this morning near Danville, in my home State of Kentucky.

As of this morning, one fatality and five more injuries have been reported, and others may be unaccounted for. We

hope and pray that these figures do not increase. Several structures have been damaged or destroyed.

The Lincoln County emergency manager reported: "The part of the area that has been compromised, there is just nothing left." The fiery explosion was so large that it was picked up by weather satellites, and witnesses report the smoke can be seen from my hometown of Louisville, almost 70 miles away.

Obviously, the investigation is just beginning. My staff and I will continue to stay on top of this and be a resource for everyone affected.

This morning, our prayers are with the families whom this disaster has touched, and our gratitude is with all the first responders who rushed toward the towering flames to protect their neighbors and communities.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, now on a completely different matter, the Senate has accomplished a significant amount of business this week for the American people.

We have made a big dent in the backlog of President Trump's well-qualified nominees for Federal office. With respect to the judiciary, we have confirmed 13 impressive individuals to lifetime seats on the Federal bench. We have also ensured that two more key components of the President's foreign policy team will be on the job before the Senate adjourns for the August work period.

We confirmed the Deputy Secretary of Defense and a new ambassador to

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



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the United Nations—both with bipartisan support, just as it should be for nominees who are so fully prepared for jobs that are so important.

BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today the Senate will turn our attention to legislation. We need to address the debt limit and secure the full faith and credit of the United States. We need to continue to secure the funding our national defense demands. Fortunately, the pending legislation will accomplish precisely that.

In recent weeks, key officials on President Trump's team engaged in extensive negotiations with Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic House. Given the exigencies of a divided government, we knew that any bipartisan agreement on funding levels would not appear perfect to either side, but the administration negotiated a strong deal.

First and foremost, it ensures our Federal Government will not approach any kind of short-term debt crisis in the coming weeks or months. It secures our Nation's full faith and credit and ensures that Congress will not throw this kind of unnecessary wrench into the gears of job growth and a thriving economy.

What is more, despite the desires of the Democratic House, the administration has successfully kept far-left poison pills and policy riders entirely out of the process.

We had heard that our Democratic colleagues across the Capitol were clamoring to take us backward on the issue of life, perhaps even targeting the Hyde Amendment or forcing more taxpayer dollars back toward Planned Parenthood. We had heard they were clamoring to try to handcuff the administration's important work on border security, but on those fronts, and many others, the far left was denied any such victories. There are no poison pills—a big win for the White House.

I ask unanimous consent that the terms of this agreement and the specific prohibition of poison pills be printed in the RECORD.

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

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

BIPARTISAN BUDGET AGREEMENT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2020 AND 2021

1. The 2019 Bipartisan Budget Agreement for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 ("Agreement") is agreed to by the bipartisan leadership of Congress and the administration of Donald J. Trump. The bipartisan Congressional leadership and the administration agree to cooperate in the Agreement's implementation.

2. The Agreement modifies the discretionary spending caps imposed by the Budget Control Act ("BCA") for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 pursuant to the table below. The spending cap adjustments are intended to reflect the elimination of the BCA sequester for two years, plus a slight increase in spending for both defense and non-defense programs.

3. The parties agree to partially offset the Agreement's modifications to the discretionary spending caps legislation by extending the BCA mandatory sequester and customs user fees to achieve a total offset level of \$77.4 billion as scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

4. The debt limit will be suspended for two years, through July 31, 2021. No additional restrictions will be placed on the Secretary's extraordinary measures authorities. The debt limit suspension, spending cap adjustments, offsets, and any necessary procedural matters, will be included as part of a single piece of legislation.

5. Appropriations bills: Specific spending decisions shall be left to the members of the Appropriations Committees, with 302(b)s set through the regular process of the committees. Congressional leaders and the administration agree that, relative to the FY 2019 regular appropriations Acts, there will be no poison pills, additional new riders, additional CHIMPS, or other changes in policy or conventions that allow for higher spending levels, or any nonappropriations measures unless agreed to on a bipartisan basis by the four leaders with the approval of the President. Current transfer funding levels and authorities shall be maintained, and any modifications must be agreed to on a bipartisan basis by the four leaders with the approval of the President. Any emergency spending levels must be agreed to on a bipartisan basis by the four leaders with the approval of the President.

6. The agreement also establishes a new cap adjustment for FY 2020 to help ensure the necessary resources for the decennial Census are provided.

7. Senate Leaders agree that if a bill has been reported on a bipartisan basis from the Senate Appropriations Committee and is consistent with the BCA spending caps, and has the support of the Chairman and the Ranking Member, they will work together to minimize procedural delays. The Majority Leader will continue to consult with the Democratic Leader to sequence bills in a bipartisan way, and acknowledges that bipartisan concurrence is required to expedite the consideration of any appropriations bill.

8. The President, Congressional leaders and the leadership of the Appropriations Committees shall work together to reach bicameral and bipartisan agreement on the orderly and timely consideration of FY 2020 appropriations bills to avoid a government shutdown, and a 12-bill omnibus. The President, Congressional leaders and the leadership of the Appropriations Committees shall also work together to reach bicameral and bipartisan agreement on the orderly and timely consideration of FY 2021 appropriations bills to avoid a government shutdown, and a 12-bill omnibus.

	Fiscal Year 2019	Fiscal Year 2020	Fiscal Year 2021
Defense Base	647.00	666.500	671.500
Defense OCO	69.0	71.500	69.000
Defense subtotal	716.000	738.000	740.500
Nondefense Base	597.000	621.500	626.500
Census Adj.	--	2.500	0
Nondefense base plus adjustments	597.000	624.000	626.500
Nondefense OCO	8.0	8.000	8.000
Nondefense subtotal	605.000	632.000	634.500
Total	1,321.000	1,370.000	1,375.000

Adjustments permitted under current law for disaster relief, wildfire suppression, program integrity, and 21st Century Cures Act continue.

Agreement calls for increased OCO funding in FY 2020 (relative to FY 2019) of + \$2.5 billion for defense funding. Defense OCO returns to FY 2019 levels in FY 2021.

Mr. McCONNELL. Now, perhaps more importantly—particularly to my Republican colleagues and to me—this legislation sets a sufficient funding level for our national defense.

Over the past few months, as we have worked through important legislation like the NDAA, we have been reminded of one glaring reality: The forces that seek to harm the United States and our interests are ever-changing, and they demand the full attention of a fully equipped, modern, and ready military.

Since President Trump took office, Republicans in Congress have made remarkable progress. Working together, we have begun rolling back the damage caused by the previous administration's neglect, atrophy, and misguided approach. We have begun to rebuild and restore our military. We have taken important steps toward modernization, so we aren't just rebuilding the capabilities we need today but investing in those we will sorely need tomorrow.

I trust none of my colleagues are under the illusion that our work is finished. As our adversaries grow stronger, critical gaps remain in our ability to counter expansion, influence campaigns, and direct acts of violence toward America and our allies around the world.

The bipartisan funding deal is the opportunity—the only opportunity on the table—to continue filling in these gaps before it is too late. So make no mistake, Russia is not waiting idly by as we sort out whether to deliver full funding to missile defense or uphold our support of partner forces in Europe. China will not scale back its own aggressive ambitions and military investments if Americans decide to take a breather ourselves. Iran's financing of terrorist organizations and regional troublemaking is not going to stop if we stop investing in our own ability to check their efforts and project power.

So if we say we are serious about countering threats to our homeland, our allies, and our men and women deployed overseas, then we have to actually deliver on our promise to equip our forces for the job.

We have to invest in improved readiness to help our military commanders plan for emerging challenges—in research and development to support the U.S. military of the future—and in rock-solid support for our alliance commitments, which help preserve the peace and extend the reach of our values.

This deal is an opportunity to do exactly that. This is the agreement the administration has negotiated. This is the deal the House has passed. This is the deal President Trump is waiting and eager to sign into law. This is the deal that every Member of this body should support when we vote later this morning.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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