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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at 1 p.m.

Senate

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2022

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Our Father in Heaven, we sing of Your steadfast love and proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations.

Lord, make us one Nation, truly wise with righteousness, exalting us in due season. Today, inspire our lawmakers to walk in the light of Your countenance. Abide with them so that Your wisdom will influence each decision. Keep them from evil so that they will not be brought to grief, enabling them to avoid the pitfalls that lead to ruin. Empower them to glorify You in all they think, say, and do.

And, Lord, we thank You for our faithful Senate pages.

We pray in Your loving 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. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 6, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. BALDWIN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION TO DISCHARGE—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the motion to discharge, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to Discharge David M. Uhlmann, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, we approach the culmination of one of the most productive stretches in recent Senate memory. It began almost 2 months ago when, in the wake of unimaginable bloodshed in Buffalo and Uvalde, the Senate came together and passed the first gun safety law in nearly 30 years.

A few weeks later, in the face of the damaging semiconductor shortage, the Senate approved the largest investment in American manufacturing and scientific research in decades.

This week, we finally told American veterans with cancer, lung disease, and other terrible ailments that their wait for their benefits was over by passing the PACT Act.

And a few days ago, as Russian aggression toward Ukraine continues, we swiftly approved the accession of Sweden and Finland to the NATO alliance, greatly strengthening that alliance in the face of Russian aggression.

Gun safety, chips, veterans, NATO—all of this we got done in under 6 weeks. And, now, we have one more groundbreaking item left, the most important of them all: the Inflation Reduction Act. Passing any one of these bills in a summer would be significant. Yet we are on the verge of getting all

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



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of them done before the August State work period.

In a few hours, we will formally begin the process of passing the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 by voting on the motion to proceed. Our meetings with the Parliamentarian have now largely concluded, and we thank her and her staff for their hard work and diligence on such a large bill in such a short period of time. And now that our meetings with the Parliamentarian have largely concluded, we have a bill before us that can win the support of all 50 Democrats.

I am happy to report to my colleagues that the bill we presented to the Parliamentarian remains largely intact. The bill, when passed, will meet all of our goals: fighting climate change, lowering healthcare costs, closing tax loopholes abused by the wealthy, and reducing the deficit.

This is a major win for the American people and a sad commentary on the Republican Party as they actively fight provisions that lower costs for the American family.

As the Inflation Reduction Act works its way through the floor, the American people are going to learn an unmistakable truth about this proposal: It was written, first and foremost, with the American people in mind. It reduces inflation, it lowers their costs, and it fights climate change. For seniors who have faced the indignity of rationing medications or skipping them altogether, the Inflation Reduction Act will lower prescription drug costs and finally cap out-of-pocket expenses.

For families that have fallen behind on the electric bill while trying to stay cool through a heat wave, this bill will lower energy costs and provide the largest investment in clean energy ever in American history. For every child deprived of clean air and a neighborhood where they can play safely outside, away from smog and exhaust fumes, this bill will help reverse air pollution and help clean up communities that have endured the shadow of congested highways and industrial sites. And, as the most significant action of climate change ever, it will help deliver our children and grandchildren the planet they deserve.

The Inflation Reduction Act was written with the American people in mind: families struggling to pay the bills, kids who struggle with asthma and pollution, seniors who can't afford lifesaving medications. This bill is for them.

For many years, many in Washington promised to address some of the biggest challenges facing our Nation, only to fall short. Many have talked about the need to act on climate change, the need to hold drug companies accountable, the need to make the Tax Code fairer. But where previous efforts have fallen short, this Senate majority is on the verge of succeeding.

After years of trying, we will finally empower Medicare to negotiate the price of prescription drug costs. After

years of trying, we will finally cap out-of-pocket expenses and make vaccines free for our seniors.

After years of trying, after years of Americans calling for action—particularly our young people—Congress will pass the largest clean energy package ever. We will cut emissions by 40 percent by 2030, helping us avert the worst consequences of a warming planet. That is a huge goal, and we are going to meet it. We will prevent nearly 4,000 deaths and 100,000 asthma attacks each year by reducing air pollution. We will save Americans money on their utility bill by making it easier for them to tap into clean energy and expand incentives for utility companies to explore cleaner ways to generate power. We will make it easier to finally usher in the era of greater solar and wind power, battery storage, and EVs and bring manufacturing of this technology back to America. We will restore coastlines, regenerate our forests, shield communities everywhere from the danger of droughts and sweltering heat waves.

Through it all, we will create more than 9 million jobs over the next decade—good-paying union jobs—an average of nearly a million a year. So many of those jobs, as I said, will be good-paying union jobs.

From the moment Democrats announced the Inflation Reduction Act, Senate Republicans have fruitlessly tried every approach under the sun to lay a glove on our bill.

First, they said our bill will make inflation worse, only to give up on that once everyone from Larry Summers to Hank Paulson, to seven Nobel laureates said it would do the opposite. Then they tried calling our bill a bill of tax hikes on the middle class before changing their minds and actually admitting that the bill contains no tax rate increases at all for the middle class.

At every turn, they have resorted to the decades-old talking point of calling our bill nothing but wasteful spending, conveniently ignoring that our bill, in fact, lowers the deficit and is completely paid for.

I will grant my Republican colleagues that their task is not easy. By one measure, over 65 percent of Americans support the policies in the Inflation Reduction Act, and other polls reflect the same. Republicans haven't been able to get around the fact that Americans like that we are letting Medicare negotiate the price of prescription drugs. They like that we will close tax loopholes that allow billion-dollar companies to pay zero in taxes. Voices across the country, from Nobel-winning economists to former Treasury Secretaries, to even Republican movie star ex-Governors, have all praised the Inflation Reduction Act as an inflation-fighting, climate-saving, job-creating piece of legislation.

At a time of seemingly impenetrable gridlock, the Inflation Reduction Act will show the American people that

when the moment demands it, Congress is still capable of taking big steps to solve big challenges. We will show the American people that, yes, we are capable of passing a historic climate package and rein in drug companies and make our Tax Code fairer. We are able to make big promises and work hard at keeping them as well.

We know that Republicans will continue their mightiest to try to smear our work before the bill is passed. This isn't our first time going through the reconciliation process, and no one is going to be surprised when the other side comes up with wild, misleading, and wholly partisan amendments that have nothing—nothing—to do with our bill. These efforts will not deter us. No matter how long it takes, the Senate is going to stay in session to finish this bill.

In short, this is one of the most comprehensive and far-reaching pieces of legislation that has come before the Congress in decades. It will help just about every citizen in this country and make America a much better place.

We are not leaving until the job is done. The American people deserve nothing less. So let's get to work today.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following the vote on the motion to discharge the Uhlmann nomination, the Senate execute the previous order with respect to the Milstein nomination.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENDING BY 19 DAYS THE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 4785, which was introduced earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4785) to extend by 19 days the authorization for the special assessment for the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the bill be considered read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 4785) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 4785

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,