



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2023

No. 98

## Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, our Father, in a chaotic and violent world, we look to You as our mighty fortress. Have mercy upon our Nation and world. Help us all to remember how You have led us in the past.

Guide our Senators so that they clearly understand Your desires, and give them the wisdom to obey. Lord, provide our lawmakers with daily strength to honor You with their service. Remind them that they will answer to You for the way they use their talents to serve others.

Inspire all of our hearts to honor You with faithfulness and humility.

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. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, June 6, 2023.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WELCH 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

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of David Crane, of New Jersey, to be Under Secretary of Energy.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

#### ALL-SENATE AI BRIEFINGS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this morning, I released a "Dear Colleague," alongside Senators HEINRICH, ROUNDS, and YOUNG, announcing three Senators-only briefings on artificial intelligence taking place starting in the next few weeks. These bipartisan briefings will culminate in the first-ever classified all-Senate briefing on AI's impact on national security. In fact, all three briefings are the first all-Senators briefings on AI. The briefings will be led by some of the top minds in AI

and will help Senators develop much needed expertise on defining the technological shift of this century.

I urge all my colleagues to attend these briefings because it won't be long before we see AI's dramatic changes in the workplace, in the classroom, in our living rooms, and in virtually every corner of our lives. It is already starting to happen. We must be ready.

These all-Senate briefings are important because elected representatives in the 21st century cannot ignore AI any more than we can ignore national security, job creation, or our civil liberties. AI will permanently impact all these things and more.

The first briefing in the next few weeks will focus on the state of artificial intelligence today. The second briefing will focus on where this technology is headed in the future and how America can stay at the forefront of innovation. The third, our first-ever classified briefing on AI, will focus on how our adversaries will use AI against us, while detailing how defense and intelligence agencies will use this technology to keep Americans safe.

We will share more details on dates, times, and speakers in the coming days, and again, I urge every Senator, Democrat and Republican, to attend all three briefings.

I thank Senators HEINRICH, ROUNDS, and YOUNG for cosponsoring these briefings with me.

The Senate and all leaders have an obligation to deepen our expertise in AI because if we do our jobs correctly, we can ensure AI becomes a remarkable force for human prosperity, while mitigating its very real potential risks.

I look forward to attending these briefings and again thank Senators ROUNDS, HEINRICH, and YOUNG for joining me in this important announcement.

#### NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, now on nominations, after voting to avoid default last week,

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S1963

the Senate will focus this week on advancing more of President Biden's key administrative and judicial nominees.

Later today, the Senate will vote to advance the nomination of David Crane to be Under Secretary for Infrastructure at the Department of Energy.

The Under Secretary for Infrastructure is a new role at the DOE, created by the Biden administration and charged with implementing the historic clean energy investments made in our bipartisan infrastructure law.

Once confirmed, Mr. Crane's job will be ensuring our infrastructure dollars translate to lower energy costs, new clean energy manufacturing jobs, and a more resilient energy grid.

Mr. Crane received bipartisan support in the ENR Committee, and I expect that bipartisan support to carry on to the floor.

Also, the Senate will advance the nomination of Dilawar Syed to serve as second in command at the SBA, the Small Business Administration. Mr. Syed is the definition of a highly qualified nominee. His nomination is supported by a broad range of business stakeholders, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and he will have the crucial task of helping tens of millions of small businesses get the resources they need to grow their operations.

The SBA has not had a Senate-confirmed Deputy for more than 5 years, and Mr. Syed is one of the longest pending nominees in the Senate. So I am exceedingly pleased this qualified nominee is now moving forward. If confirmed, Mr. Syed will also add to the diversity of President Biden's administration by serving as the highest ranking Muslim official in the administration.

Finally, this week, we will begin considering the nomination of Dale Ho to serve as a district judge for the Southern District of New York.

It is shaping up to be another busy week in the Senate, and I thank my colleagues for their good work.

#### INVESTING IN AMERICA

Mr. President, now on implementation, last week, Congress passed legislation averting catastrophic default. That alone is very good news for every single community in this country. Better yet, Congress averted default while also preserving the important investments we have made through legislation like the CHIPS and Science Act, the bipartisan infrastructure bill, and Democrats' landmark Inflation Reduction Act.

Now, Democrats are getting the word out on our agenda, and for months I have worked with the administration and with my colleagues to painstakingly plan out implementation.

It is one thing for Americans to read about Congress passing this bill or that bill; it is a whole different ball game for them to see these investments come to life through new construction projects, new factory openings, new job announcements, and even more private sector investments. Implementing our

agenda is not abstract; it is happening across the country as we speak. It means jobs, jobs, jobs as well as real help for so many different communities—suburban, urban, rural—across the country.

To that end, the Biden administration announced today they will hit the road very soon for their phase 2 Investing in America tour. It will be a great chance for Americans to hear directly from the administration in their own backyards and for the administration to tout the new projects sprouting across the country.

Today, the White House also announced the rollout of invest.gov—a terrific new resource mapping out precisely how implementation is taking root across the country. I encourage everyone to visit invest.gov so they can see all the projects in semiconducting, clean energy, battery and EV manufacturing, and bio manufacturing that have been announced since the beginning of President Biden's term.

My friends, the numbers don't lie. Under President Biden and Democrats in Congress, 32,000 infrastructure projects and more than \$470 billion—billion with a capital "B"—worth of private investments have been announced, including \$214 billion in investments toward semiconductors, which was largely made possible thanks to the CHIPS and Science Act; more than \$200 billion to help make America the leader in clean energy manufacturing, led by legislation like the Inflation Reduction Act. And these investments include everything from new battery plants in Georgia and West Virginia to solar power facilities in Oklahoma and South Carolina, to wind turbine assembly lines in New York, and so much more.

These are just a few examples of how Democrats' agenda is paving the way for the future and the future of jobs in this country.

Implementation will remain at the top of Democrats' priority list in the months and years ahead. Democrats have a great story to tell the American people. Now we are putting in the work to make sure Americans know precisely—precisely—how our agenda is working for them.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

#### BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, last week, the Senate passed an agreement that preserved America's full faith and credit and began to rein in Democrats'

runaway spending. But the Senate's work is far from over. Today, with the threat of economic crisis behind us, it is time for the Senate to focus its full attention on some of the most basic responsibilities we are sent here to fulfill: keeping America safe, keeping America fed, and keeping the lights on.

First, we have a little less than 4 months left in the fiscal year. Our colleagues, Appropriations Chair MURRAY and Vice Chair COLLINS, have expressed a shared goal to fund the Federal Government through regular order. That means 12 full-year funding bills processed, passed, conferenced, and signed into law before the end of September. I think all 100 of us agree that we should not be funding the American people's government through one big omnibus at the end of the year, but achieving that is going to require hard work and incredible cooperation.

To produce funding bills that can pass the House and become law, we will have to build on the progress we made last week. After 2 years of taxing, spending, and runaway inflation, the American people chose to elect a divided government. In the coming weeks, that divided government has an opportunity to restore stability to the appropriations process and deliver more of the fiscal sanity they expect, but only if the Democratic majority lets the process actually work.

This year, we also have the responsibility to deliver a farm bill. A full 10 percent of the American workforce depends on agriculture. The Commonwealth of Kentucky is home to nearly 75,000 farms, and, in the past 5 years, since the last farm bill was passed, farming hasn't gotten any easier. Neither has ranching or forestry. Small businesses and farm families across the country will be watching the Agriculture Committee's work especially closely. Chair STABENOW, Ranking Member BOOZMAN, and our colleagues are already hard at work producing legislation that delivers the certainty and support they need to continue innovating, supporting rural jobs, and feeding America.

And Chair CANTWELL, Ranking Member CRUZ, and the Commerce Committee are working on another measure that will require our attention before the end of the fiscal year—reauthorizing the Federal Aviation Administration. Reliable and affordable air travel for both people and cargo is important to the prosperity of communities and industries across our country.

So on behalf of Kentucky growers and the entire country, I hope each of these measures receives swift consideration here on the floor.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE

Finally, Mr. President, as I made clear last week, the government's work to provide for the common defense remains unfinished. President Biden's request for the defense budget is simply insufficient, given the major challenges that our country faces. We are