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Senate

(Legislative day of Friday, September 22, 2023)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
You still work wonders in the Earth.
Teach us to do Your will. Teach us that
prayer still brings results. Teach us
that we need not fear what the future
holds, for Your mercies endure forever.
Teach us that Your blessings come new
every day. Teach us to number our
days to appreciate life's precious
moments. Lord, teach us that You are
able to do immeasurably, abundantly
above all that we can ask or imagine,
according to Your power working in
and through us.

As our lawmakers continue to attempt to avert a government shutdown, give them courage and wisdom
for the living of these days.

We pray in Your sovereign 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning
business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SECURING GROWTH AND ROBUST LEADERSHIP IN AMERICAN AVIATION ACT—MOTION TO PRO- CEED—Continued

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under
the previous order, the Senate will re-
sume consideration of the motion to
proceed to H.R. 3935, which the clerk
will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk
read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 211,
H.R. 3935, a bill to amend title 49, United
States Code, to reauthorize and improve the
Federal Aviation Administration and other
civil aviation programs, and for other pur-
poses.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr.
WARNOCK). The majority leader is rec-
ognized.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today,
the U.S. Senate will continue its pur-
suit of a bipartisan bridge CR to avoid
a devastating government shutdown.

In a little over an hour, we will vote
on the motion to proceed to the FAA
reauthorization, which will serve as a
vehicle for the CR I announced with
Leader McCONNELL 2 days ago. Once we
are on the bill, I will be introducing
the substitute amendment, which will
contain the legislative text of the bi-
partisan bridge CR, which the Appropriations
Committee worked so hard
on. And, again, I salute Senators MUR-
RAY and COLLINS for the good job they
have done. I will file cloture on the
substitute and the underlying bill. So
Members can expect to vote for cloture
on Saturday, if not sooner.

Things are coming down to the wire.
As I have said for months, Congress has
only one option—one option—to avoid
a shutdown: bipartisanship. It was true
yesterday. It is true today. It will be
true tomorrow.

With bipartisanship, we can responsi-
bly fund the government and avoid
the sharp and unnecessary pain for the
American people and the economy that
a shutdown will bring. With bipartis-
anship, we can speed along this process
here in the Senate. We can come to an
agreement on voting on amendments
and allow the Senate to work its will
in a timely fashion. With bipartis-
anship, we can make good on the deal
reached earlier this summer to avoid
default.

Remember—remember—bipartisan
majorities agreed to funding levels
back in June. The leaders of the House,
the Senate, and the White House—we
all shook hands on this deal, but now
the Speaker and only the Speaker is
going back on his word. He is the only
one of the five to go back on his word.
By being the only one to go back on his
word, Speaker McCARTHY is saying he
cares more about the whims of the
hard right—the hard, hard right—than
avoiding a shutdown.

We cannot have that. We need bipar-
tisanship. If he persists in partisanship,
which he is doing now, by always look-
ing over his hard-right shoulder, he
will create a shutdown. Sadly, every
move the Speaker has taken, since the
bipartisan deal in June, has been to
shred any prospects of bipartisanship.
By focusing on the views of the radical
few, instead of the many, Speaker
McCARTHY has made a shutdown far
more likely.

Let me say that again. Let me say
that again. By focusing on the views of
the radical few, instead of the many,
Speaker McCARTHY has made a shut-
down far more likely.

Despite the fact that many on both
sides want to work together, despite
the fact that, here in the Senate, we
are pursuing bipartisanship, the Speaker
has chosen to elevate the whims and
desires of a handful of hard-right extre-
mists and has nothing to show for
it.

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



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We saw a glaring example last night. Last night, on the floor of the House, the House voted twice, with overwhelming bipartisan majorities, to keep Ukraine funding in the House Defense appropriations bill—each time with over 330 votes, a majority of both Democratic and Republican Members. And yet, after the vote, the Republican leadership in the House subverted the will of the House by going to the Rules Committee and cut the aid to Ukraine anyway.

Can you believe that? Ten or so extremists, who don't care at all about governing, about preserving democracy or America's strength in the world, hold more sway in Speaker McCARTHY's mind than the majority of his party and the vast majority of the House of Representatives, which he leads.

We need to be showing strength against Putin, not weakness. We need to be defending democracy, not abandoning our friends abroad. Speaker McCARTHY is letting a small band of very extreme Members override the views of everyone else. It is the tail wagging the dog.

That is the crux of the entire shutdown message, and if Speaker McCARTHY continues on his path, it will have consequences for years to come. If we are forced to abandon Ukraine by a handful of extreme people who seem to have no sense of the reality of the world, we will pay a price for years to come.

How can Speaker McCARTHY let that happen? How can he let that happen?

A divided government demands compromise. By ignoring this, Speaker McCARTHY is driving the country straight to a shutdown, and the longer he resists bipartisanship, the greater the damage of a shutdown will be to the American people.

It has been alarming over the last few days to listen to some of my House colleagues on the hard right talk so casually about shutting the government down. Some of them seem proud to do it. They sort of brag about it. It is incredible. They seem completely unbothered that, in a shutdown, over a million Active-Duty military members won't get their pay. A shutdown would degrade troop readiness and devastate our southern border—something our friends on the other side, who claim to care about border security, conveniently ignore. Small business would lose access to capital. Home buyers would be unable to secure loans. Our supply chains would be imperiled, and costs for American families would go up and up—all because of a needless shutdown caused by a few extremists and Speaker McCARTHY's obeisance to them.

This will all become a reality, unfortunately, in less than 3 days, unless Speaker McCARTHY abandons his doomed mission of succumbing to the MAGA radicals. The only way—the only way, once again—and I have to keep repeating it because maybe it will

sink in over there. The only way we prevent a government shutdown is by voting on legislation that can get bipartisan support. That is what we will work on here in the Senate today.

As I have said, the bill before us later today is a bridge, not the final destination. I urge my colleagues to continue to work to advance this bipartisan bridge CR and to avoid a reckless and devastating government shutdown.

The Senate, once again, is called on to lead by example—to lead the House and the Speaker by example.

SAFER BANKING ACT

Mr. President, now on SAFER Banking, yesterday, the SAFER Banking Act, I am happy to say, was reported out of the Banking Committee with a good bipartisan majority of 14 to 9. The next step is to bring SAFER Banking to the floor for a vote, which I will do soon.

I worked long and hard—for years—to get us to this point, and now the Senate is one crucial step closer to helping cannabis businesses operate more efficiently, more safely, and more transparently in the States that allow cannabis to be sold.

I brought together a bipartisan coalition, with Senators MERKLEY and DAINES, LUMMIS, SINEMA, and REED, and we committed to reaching a deal on the issue; and I am really proud of the bipartisan deal we produced. I also want to thank Chairman BROWN and Ranking Member SCOTT for moving SAFER Banking through the committee. And, again, let me repeat, my other colleagues were heavily involved: Senators LUMMIS and SINEMA and REED and, of course, MERKLEY and DAINES, the lead sponsors of the SAFER Banking bill.

SAFER Banking's bipartisan vote in the Banking Committee underscores how much momentum we have right now on cannabis banking and how important the issue is for so many business owners and communities across the country. No industry has the ability to thrive if its businesses can't access basic banking infrastructure, especially not an industry growing as quickly and one as new as the cannabis industry.

Congress must always be in the business of promoting entrepreneurs, promoting small businesses, and promoting job growth. SAFER Banking will do that precisely in the cannabis industry—connect cannabis businesses to resources like bank accounts and small business loans—creating a safer and more transparent environment in which they can grow.

When I go to the floor, we will add very significant criminal justice provisions to the bill as well, and that is important as well, and I will talk more about that at a later time.

So, again, I thank my colleagues on both sides for their cooperation on this legislation. We have been working on it for years. Now is the time to get it done.

I yield the floor.

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. McCONNELL. Mr. 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 Republican leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, well, Congress has 3 days left to pass straightforward, short-term funding legislation to prevent the Federal Government from shutting down. That is 3 more days to provide essential resources at the current rate of operations before critical government functions come to a screeching halt.

Let's be absolutely clear about what is at stake. Shutting down the government is not like pressing "pause." It is not an interlude that lets us pick up where we left off. It is an actively harmful proposition. Instead of producing any meaningful policy outcomes, it would actually take the important progress being made on a number of key issues and drag it backward.

Back in 2019, our colleagues on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee found that over the previous 5 years, government shutdowns had cost the taxpayer nearly \$4 billion—\$4 billion. The American people covered at least \$3.7 billion in backpay for Federal workers. Some went to servicemembers, law enforcement officers, and other frontline personnel who actually stayed on duty. But some went to cover the equivalent of nearly 57,000 years of work that Federal employees hadn't even been allowed to complete. And that is not to mention hundreds of millions of dollars in extra administrative costs.

America cannot afford for Congress to take government shutdowns lightly. That is especially true of the crisis at our Nation's southern border.

The Biden administration's utter failure to secure the border has been recordbreaking in the worst possible ways. Functionally open borders have led to alltime high migration and stretched border security resources literally to a breaking point.

Meanwhile, flows of deadly drugs have made every State actually a border State. In fact, the Border Patrol reported recently that in the past year, agents have seized enough fentanyl alone to kill the entire population of the United States.

Time and again, government shutdowns have made the essential work of the Border Patrol and ICE even harder.

Many of our colleagues have pointed out how border security personnel, like the Armed Forces, would work through a shutdown without pay, but the full consequences go beyond financial hardship. As our colleagues' 2019 report found, past shutdowns have delayed important maintenance and repair

work that “endangered the lives of law enforcement officers and created significant border security vulnerabilities.” They have forced officials to cancel tens of thousands of immigration hearings, and they have taken the Department of Homeland Security’s employee E-Verify system completely offline.

Shutting down the government is a choice, and it is a choice that would make the crisis at the southern border even worse.

I am encouraged that many of our colleagues who share my concerns are working to ensure that the short-term funding measure we pass this week gives the men and women of Border Patrol and ICE critical resources while we continue our work to clean up Washington Democrats’ mess.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, this week, the Senate will have the opportunity to push back one more time on a pair of shortsighted Biden administrative policies with major consequences for small businesses and landowners across America.

Earlier this year, thanks to the leadership of our colleagues, the junior Senator for Kansas and the junior Senator for Oklahoma, the Senate passed two resolutions disapproving of President Biden’s decision to up-list two creatures—the lesser prairie-chicken and the northern long-eared bat—as endangered species.

As is so often the case under the Endangered Species Act, this move by Washington bureaucrats would encroach on private property rights and block infrastructure and economic development in the name of preserving habitat. As many as 37 States would be affected by the designation of the northern long-eared bat as “endangered,” and nearly \$14 billion in agricultural production would be affected by the designation of the lesser prairie-chicken.

Now, in reality, aerial estimates show that numbers of lesser prairie-chickens have grown from less than 17,000 in 2013 to over 26,000 in 2022, and the President’s own experts admit that the declining population of northern long-eared bats is mostly explained by disease, not humans. Of course, that hasn’t stopped the Biden administration from pushing ahead with a plan to infringe on property rights, impede urgent infrastructure, and put even more of America’s energy abundance literally out of reach.

So I would like to thank Senator MARSHALL and Senator MULLIN for their leadership on this resolution, and I would like to urge each of our colleagues to join me in voting to override the President’s veto.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is that time of year again—ending the month of September, starting a new fiscal year. We have a responsibility we

accept as Members of Congress to do some things: Answer rollcalls, respond to our constituents, keep the lights on in the Federal Government. The third issue is one which we are contesting this week.

The Senate, I believe, has taken a responsible, thoughtful approach to this. It gets down to basics. There are 51 Democrats, 49 Republicans, effectively, and most measures of consequence require more than a majority vote. So the decision was made by both Senator SCHUMER and Senator McCONNELL to put together a continuing resolution, which is a stopgap spending measure, on a bipartisan basis so that we would have bipartisanship as the starting point. They achieved that. They achieved that in a way that surprised a lot of people because we had a procedural vote in the Senate on the Senate bipartisan continuing resolution and 77 Senators voted in favor. Now, 77 Senators in the U.S. Senate is more than just a supermajority; it is a pretty impressive number, and it doesn’t happen very often.

On Tuesday evening, the Senate Appropriations Committee chair, Senator PATTY MURRAY of Washington, working with Republican Senator SUSAN COLLINS of Maine, released a text of the bipartisan continuing resolution. It spelled out what we think needs to be done to keep the government open and functioning for about 6 or 7 weeks, until November 17, giving us time to negotiate a budget for remainder of the year.

I would quickly add that the efforts of Senator MURRAY and Senator COLLINS in the Appropriations Committee leading up to this moment were historic in nature. It has been more than 5 years, I believe, since we have come to the floor and actually debated spending bills and actually amended spending bills on the floor. We usually are faced with short-term spending bills or omnibus bills that combine the entire budget in one massive piece of legislation. But Senators MURRAY and COLLINS had us moving in the right direction, a bipartisan direction, and that is evidenced as well in their efforts in this continuing resolution.

This continuing resolution does more than keep the lights on. It includes crucial emergency assistance and program extensions.

It includes \$6.5 billion to maintain our commitment to Ukraine and \$6 billion to help FEMA respond to federally declared disasters, including one in my State of Illinois, where 20 counties are working to recover from the impact of summer storms.

It would prevent a lapse in funding for critical healthcare efforts, like community healthcare centers. I am sure the Presiding Officer has visited many of these centers in his State. I have in my State.

It really is one of the more amazing products coming out of the Affordable Care Act. I can remember when Senators met at the last minute and de-

manded that we fund these community healthcare clinics as part of the bill. It was a stroke of genius. It meant that people of limited means would have access to quality medical care. I have said, and it is not political puffery, that if I were seriously ill, I would gladly visit one of these clinics and seek treatment because I think they are that good.

Also, there is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. It is one thing to give a speech about families and mothers, mothers surviving pregnancy, and about children, young children, getting off to a strong start in life; it is another thing to put bread on the table. The WIC Program puts bread on the table. In our continuing resolution, we keep the lights on at that Agency. It is the right thing to do.

We would also extend the authorization to the Federal Aviation Administration through December 31. How important is safety in airline travel? Critically important. If you remember the last time there was a threat of shutting down the government, it was the people responsible for regulating and keeping our planes safe that convinced us we could no longer play that game. I hope we don’t have to go through that experience again.

This week, 77 Senators recognized that bipartisanship was the solution to avoiding a shutdown. That includes the leaders of both parties, the Democratic chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the ranking member, whom I have noted.

Unfortunately, over in the House, it is just an exercise in chaos. Speaker McCARTHY has declared the bipartisan Senate continuing resolution is dead on arrival. Our bipartisan bill, worked out with both sides of the aisle, that won 77 votes, he has dismissed as unacceptable. For reasons beyond my understanding, he has chosen the far-right rebellion of a few MAGA House Republicans over the continued, orderly function of our government. He has chosen to put bipartisanship and politics above the American people.

For however long it takes the Speaker to gain control of this small faction of his party, essential social services will be slowed, Federal employees and military servicemembers will go without paychecks for their families.

This group of extreme Republicans is intent on slashing millions from social programs, attaching their political agenda for our border before they will even begin to discuss keeping the government open. The American people deserve better.

I just left a meeting of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary where Senator GRAHAM raised the legitimate concern about what is happening at our border. We are being swamped with people seeking entry into the United States. This is not unusual. If you look around the world, that is happening in many places. There are so many people now who have been dislocated from

their homes that the refugee experts tell us there is no record of such a number in the modern history of the world. It is no surprise that the United States, as a prize destination, is feeling that pressure.

Why would it make sense, I would say to Speaker MCCARTHY, for us to shut down the government and take the men and women who are along the border now, trying to keep us safe, and make a dramatic budget cut in their Agency? It is just the opposite of what we need. We need the resources and the personnel to have an orderly process at our border. Shutting down the government fails to meet that responsibility.

The group of extreme Republicans intent on slashing millions on social programs and attaching their political agenda to the border say that they want to discuss these issues before any serious measure is considered. The American people deserve better. We are not a bargaining chip.

A shutdown would harm every American who relies on government services. It would halt small business loans and, if you can imagine, stall medical research at the National Institutes of Health and jeopardize nutrition assistance for low-income women, infants, and children. It would delay food safety inspection and deprive children access to Head Start. It would likely cause travel delays because more than 13,000 air traffic controllers and 50,000 TSA officers would be forced to work without pay. It would also furlough 1,000 air traffic controllers who are now being trained for filling the vacancies critically important at that Agency.

Shutdowns are slowing down our economy progress and jeopardizing jobs and future economic growth. They also tell the world that, in America, politics can rule. It can get in the way of basically paying our bills, providing service to our people, and conducting day-to-day business that keeps our Nation afloat.

The last three government shutdowns led to 56,940 years in lost productivity and cost the government at least \$338 million in additional costs and late fees. That is American taxpayer dollars that are being wasted because of this shutdown.

The last full shutdown in 2013 reduced gross domestic product growth by \$20 billion, and a 5-week partial shutdown in 2018 reduced economic output by \$11 billion.

I urge my House Republican colleagues to resist making shutdowns a 5-year tradition in their party. If we have the option of keeping the government funded while we continue to negotiate a longer term funding plan, why put the Nation through this pain?

Funding the government is one of the essential parts of this job. It is time that we meet our responsibility and do it in a way that doesn't disrupt America's livelihood and well-being. We need to finish the full-year appropriations process and do it in a responsible way.

I urge my colleagues in both Chambers to choose bipartisanship and pass

the Senate continuing resolution so we can continue the important process of funding the government in a grownup, responsible way for the year 2024.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

ENERGY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the Biden administration's war on affordable and reliable energy continues.

Three weeks ago, the administration announced a cancellation of seven oil and gas leases in the small portion of ANWR, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, that is available for energy exploration and development.

It was just the latest move by the Biden administration to stifle conventional energy production. In his State of the Union Address this year, the President acknowledged that “[w]e're going to need oil for at least another decade . . . and beyond that.” Let me just repeat that. Again, these are President Biden's own words:

We're going to need oil for at least another decade . . . and beyond that.

Well, in this case, the President is right. While alternative energy is powering an increasing share of American energy production, we are nowhere near being able to rely exclusively on alternative energy technologies. We are going to need conventional energy for quite a while yet.

The best way to get that conventional energy is by developing the United States' abundant domestic resources in an environmentally responsible way. But the President's anti-development strategy seems designed to force us to remain at the mercy of producers like OPEC and to rely on expensive imports from sometimes dangerous or unstable countries and regions.

There are multiple problems with relying on foreign sources of oil, not the least of which is the potential for our oil dollars to fund oppressive regimes. But even leaving that aside, depending on foreign oil sources threatens the stability and affordability of our oil supply. You only need to look at the energy challenges and soaring costs countries like Germany have faced in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine to recognize how perilous it can be to rely on another country for energy.

Anyone who is concerned about the environment should recognize that oil and gas production here in the United States is likely to be substantially more environmentally friendly than a lot of foreign production.

The President's war on domestic production isn't the only dangerous element of his energy strategy. Also of deep concern is the President's apparent determination to force Americans to adopt electric vehicles on a broad scale within the next decade. Why is this so concerning? Because our electric grid is nowhere near capable of supporting that kind of widespread transition to electric vehicles.

Rising electricity demand is already stretching our grid, which has been weakened by the move away from conventional energy sources. In an apparent response to the impact of overreaching Green New Deal-style politics, NERC, which is the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, for the first time identified energy policy as a risk to grid reliability in its recent biennial report.

Discussing the move away from conventional sources of electricity, NERC found that “[c]ollectively, the new resource mix can be more susceptible to long-term, widespread Extreme Events, such as extreme temperatures or sustained loss of wind/solar, that can impact the ability to provide sufficient energy as the fuel supply is less certain.”

In February, the PJM Interconnection, which manages a substantial part of Eastern America's electric grid, released a report warning that fossil fuel plants are being forced to retire at a faster rate than new renewables can be brought online at a rate of roughly 2 to 1.

In other words, we are rapidly approaching a situation which we simply don't have the ability to keep up with current electricity demand. Add charging for tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of electric vehicles on top of that, and we could be looking at a future of widespread blackouts and brownouts, to say nothing of soaring electricity prices.

I should also mention that the Biden administration's proposed distribution transformer rule, which would require a move to amorphous steel cores for more distribution transformers—what that would do to the grid is simply no favors whatsoever. In fact, it would be almost guaranteed to worsen supply chain issues and seriously slow grid maintenance and upgrades.

And the supply chain backlog is a top concern for utilities and electric cooperatives, which are already facing headwinds from overreaching EPA regulations. I don't need to tell anyone that utility bills for electricity and natural gas have risen dramatically since President Biden took office, as have gas prices. It is a predictable outcome of the economic and energy policies that President Biden has pursued. If his war on conventional energy continues, today's high prices could look cheap next to the energy prices of the future.

I am a strong and longtime supporter of renewable energy, and I am proud to be from a State that is a top producer of ethanol and that derives a substantial portion of its electricity generation from renewable resources like wind and hydroelectric.

But the fact of the matter is, energy technology has simply not advanced to the point where we can rely solely or even, for that matter, mostly on renewables. While the President may sometimes pay lip service to our continuing need for conventional energy,

his actual policies seem to ignore this fact and are setting us up for a future of higher prices, grid instability, and insufficient supply.

The President's policies have already resulted in a 2-year-plus inflation crisis.

If he keeps going the way he has been going, his legacy may include an energy crisis as well.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—VETO MESSAGES ON S.J. RES. 9 AND S.J. RES. 24

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to modify the previous order in relation to the veto messages on S.J. Res. 9 and S.J. Res. 24 so that, beginning at 2:20 p.m. today, there be up to 20 minutes for debate, concurrently and equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, prior to rollcall votes on the passage of S.J. Res. 9 and S.J. Res. 24 in the order listed, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, we all know we are down to the wire right now, so we need to keep moving with this CR so we can avoid a damaging and completely unnecessary shutdown.

This is a straightforward, bipartisan CR that simply keeps the government funded so we can continue work on our full-year bills. It includes absolutely essential, time-sensitive reauthorizations for the FAA and others and extends urgently needed funding for disaster relief and our allies in Ukraine.

I worked closely with the Senator from Maine and leadership in both parties to put together a truly straightforward bill that can pass the Senate, pass the House, and be signed into law. I am confident there is enough support for this to pass the Senate and the House just as soon as we put it up for a vote. The question is how quickly we can all work to get this done.

I understand there are Senators who don't think there is enough in this bill, but this is not meant to be the end-all, be-all when it comes to legislating; it is meant to prevent a devastating shutdown. I think we all understand there is more work to do on many of these issues.

Many of you want to do more on disaster relief—something we must do after we prevent a shutdown that cuts off relief to communities in the middle of a recovery. I want to address the childcare funding cliff head on, which we have got to do after we pass this so

we can save parents and kids from a shutdown that would mean they would lose their access to Head Start. I know there are colleagues concerned about doing more on border security—something I am willing to continue to discuss—but time is of the absolute essence here, and a shutdown would mean the folks who are working at our southern border would be forced to work without paychecks.

A shutdown is no solution to anything. We have got 12 bipartisan appropriations bills I have worked with many Members on both sides of the aisle to pull together, and I want to get them passed and address all of these critical issues, but we need to prevent a shutdown first.

So let's not act like this CR is the last bill Congress is ever going to pass. Let's get this done so we can avoid a shutdown that hurts our families, hurts our economy, hurts our national security, and more. Then let's get back to work on the other issues that are important to everyone here and to the folks we work for back home. I urge all of our colleagues to vote yes now on the motion to proceed.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I urge that we go to the vote.

VOTE ON MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 76, nays 22, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 241 Leg.]

YEAS—76

Baldwin	Cornyn	Hirono
Barrasso	Cortez Masto	Hoeven
Bennet	Cotton	Hyde-Smith
Blumenthal	Cramer	Kaine
Booker	Duckworth	Kelly
Boozman	Durbin	Kennedy
Brown	Ernst	King
Cantwell	Feinstein	Klobuchar
Capito	Fetterman	Lankford
Cardin	Gillibrand	Luján
Carper	Graham	Manchin
Casey	Grassley	Markey
Cassidy	Hassan	McConnell
Collins	Heinrich	Menendez
Coons	Hickenlooper	Merkley

Moran	Rounds	Van Hollen
Mullin	Rubio	Warner
Murkowski	Sanders	Warnock
Murphy	Schatz	Warren
Murray	Schumer	Welch
Ossoff	Shaheen	Whitehouse
Padilla	Sinema	Wicker
Peters	Stabenow	Wyden
Reed	Tester	Young
Romney	Thune	
Rosen	Tillis	

NAYS—22

Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Schmitt
Britt	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Budd	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Vance
Daines	Paul	
Fischer	Ricketts	

NOT VOTING—2

Scott (SC)
Smith

The motion was agreed to.

SECURING GROWTH AND ROBUST LEADERSHIP IN AMERICAN AVIATION ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The clerk will report the bill.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3935) to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1292

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 1292 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER], for Mrs. MURRAY, proposes an amendment numbered 1292.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1293 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1292

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 1293 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 1293 to amendment No. 1292.

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

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