



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

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

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2024

No. 124

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

### PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Our guest chaplain is Rajan Zed, President of the Universal Society of Hinduism from Reno, NV.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Om. We meditate on the transcendental glory of the Deity Supreme, who is inside the heart of the Earth, inside the life of the sky, and inside the soul of Heaven. May He stimulate and illuminate our minds.

Lead us from the unreal to the real.  
Lead us from darkness to light.

Lead us from death to immortality.

Strive constantly to serve the welfare of the world; by devotion to selfless one attains the supreme goal of life. Do your work with the welfare of others always in mind.

May we be protected together.

May we be nourished together.

May we work together with great vigor.

May our study be enlightening.

May no obstacle arise between us.

United your resolve, united your hearts, may your spirits be at one, that you may long together dwell in unity and concord.

Peace, peace, peace be unto all. Om.

### 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, July 30, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK 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 to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stacey D. Neumann, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

#### WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I rise in recognition of today's guest

Chaplain, Rajan Zed. Mr. Zed is not new to Congress. He was invited in 2007 by Majority Leader Harry Reid to read the first-ever Hindu opening prayer before the U.S. Senate. And he has read opening prayers in the U.S. House of Representatives, various State legislative bodies, county commissions, and city councils all across the United States.

Mr. Zed is a religious leader of the Hindu community in Reno, and he has taken up causes from all over the world. He is president of the Universal Society of Hinduism, an active member of the Nevada Interfaith Association, and a spiritual advisor to the National Association of Interchurch & Interfaith Families.

He has been invited to and participated in the World Economic Forum. He has met with the President of the European Parliament in Brussels to promote interfaith dialogue, and he has received several awards for his contributions to both local and global religious communities.

Outside of his faith leadership, Mr. Zed has been active in the Reno community. He serves on the governing board of directors of the Northern Nevada International Center, the board of directors of the Nevada World Trade Council, the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Regional Transportation Commission, and on the Reno Police Chief Advisory Board.

Mr. President, I am honored to have Mr. Zed back in the U.S. Senate to deliver opening prayers once again today. I welcome him to the U.S. Senate and his beautiful family.

I yield the floor.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

#### KOSA-COPPA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I am proud to say, today, the Senate keeps its promise to every parent who has lost a child because of the risks of social media. Today, after a lot of hard

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



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work and a lot of twists and turns, we will pass KOSA and COPPA. KOSA and COPPA will be perhaps the most important updates to Federal laws protecting kids on the internet in decades, and it is a very good first step.

This was truly a bipartisan effort from the start here in the Senate. I am proud of the way both sides of the aisle came together on an issue affecting so many kids and so many families across America. The House should take note and follow the Senate's example by passing KOSA and COPPA when they return. After the Senate passes KOSA and COPPA today with a strong bipartisan vote, the House should do the same when they return in September. These bills have real bipartisan momentum. So we should seize the opportunity to send them to the President's desk.

As we all know, social media has many benefits, but we also know about the many risks social media can pose, especially to our kids. Too many kids experience relentless promotion of suicide or substance abuse material. Too many kids have their personal data collected and then used nefariously. With studies showing that kids today spend more time on social media than ever before, now is the moment to pass KOSA, pass COPPA, and instill guardrails that protect kids from these risks.

We have heard from so many parents whose kids, sadly, took their own lives—their own lives—because of what happened to them on social media. To their everlasting credit, these parents, instead of cursing the darkness, lit a candle. They turned their grief into grace—an amazing thing—and worked doggedly to help get this bill over the finish line so that what happened to their kids—their kids will never come back—but so that what happened to their kids doesn't happen to any others. I thank these brave parents and families for sharing their heart-wrenching stories.

And I thank my colleagues Senators BLUMENTHAL and BLACKBURN, MARKEY and CASSIDY, DURBIN and KLOBUCHAR, Chair CANTWELL, and so many others for championing these bills.

**TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND WORKERS ACT**

Mr. President, now, 45 days after Joe Biden took the oath of office and I became majority leader, Senate Democrats passed a major expansion of the child tax credit, one of the signature policies of the American Rescue Plan. Every single Republican, down to the last Member, voted against this bill.

The child tax credit expansion was a stupendous success. It cut child poverty in America in half—in half—but it sadly expired after a year. During that year, parents had money to pay for good food for their kids, to pay for school supplies, to pay for clothing and the things that so many parents can't afford to do. It made the kids so much better. But, of course, it did expire because it was passed just during COVID.

This week, the Senate has a chance to do it again, to pass another expansion of the child tax credit to help get more kids out of poverty. This is just one of the many reasons—one of many reasons—the Senate should take up the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act.

Last night, I filed cloture on this important piece of legislation, and Senators should expect to vote on this measure Thursday.

Now, on the day Democrats assumed the majority in 2021, I promised my colleagues that I would always try my best to work first in a bipartisan way to get things done in this Chamber. I have always said bipartisanship is preferable because it is the best approach to achieving results. The Senate's record over the last 3 years bears this out. Democrats and Republicans have come together again and again to pass historic bills like infrastructure, Chips and Science, Ukraine and Israel aid, veterans' healthcare. And we have even passed bills on more difficult issues like gun safety and marriage equality. And, of course, together we avoided default and shutting down the government, which would have wreaked such havoc in our economy and hurt so many millions of families.

Now, just today, we are getting another bipartisan bill done through KOSA and COPPA. We want to continue the productive streak this week with a vote on the tax bill, though, because it will deliver so many benefits for families. This should be bipartisan. It passed in a bipartisan vote in the House, and I hope Republicans here in the Senate choose to join us.

But I have also always been clear that Democrats would not shy away from moving forward on important issues when necessary to give the American people a chance to see where their elected representatives stand. Putting Senators on record is one way progress is made on important issues. It can bring important issues to the forefront. It is what we did on choice, IVF, contraception last month.

This week is a classic example of how we can do both in the Senate: pass bipartisan legislation to get things done for the American people, like KOSA and COPPA, but also put pressure on Republicans to show where they stand on important issues like the child tax credit, affordable housing, and R&D. So, this week, the American people will also get a chance to see which Senators, in reality, support tax relief for parents and businesses and housing, and who opposes it.

Now, over the past few days, some Republican Senators, like the junior Senator from Ohio, have claimed laughably that Democrats somehow oppose the child tax credit. This is plain old nonsense. Democrats do not oppose the child tax credit whatsoever. On the contrary, we strongly support it. We authored it and put it together back in 2021, and the child tax credit is one of the most significant achievements

Democrats have done under the Biden-Harris administration.

If anyone wants to know who actually opposes the child tax credit, they should go ask the 49 Republican Senators who voted against the child tax credit when we passed the American Rescue Plan.

Here is the truth: Democrats want to pass the tax package because it will help lift more kids out of poverty with another expansion of the child tax credit. Democrats want to pass the tax package because it will reward businesses that will invest in R&D and new equipment, which will mean new jobs and greater opportunity. Democrats want to pass the tax package because it makes progress on a subject I am passionate about, affordable housing. And this package, thankfully, includes an expansion of the low-income housing tax credit, one of the best tools we have for increasing the supply of housing.

Democrats are ready to go. The American people need tax relief. The big question right now is, Will Republicans join us, or will they stand in the way?

So let me just say it again because I am very proud of this Senate and, particularly, of our caucus. This week is a classic example of how we can do both in the Senate: pass bipartisan legislation to get things done for the American people, like KOSA and COPPA, with large bipartisan majorities, but also put pressure on Republicans to show where they stand on important issues like the child tax credit, affordable housing, and R&D tax credit for business.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk called 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, the Senate is preparing to leave town for the August State work period, but there is no mistaking that our most important business here in Washington remains unfinished. Let's take a look at how the Senate has spent its summer so far.

In June, the Democratic leader called up a series of show votes, spending precious floor time on what Senate Democrats seemed to have thought would be political home runs. Instead, they gave Republicans the opportunity to reiterate our support for Americans hoping to start families.

In June, it was the month of fearmongering. July was the month of giving unqualified nominees lifetime promotions to the Federal bench.