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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, August 2, 2024, at 11 a.m.

## Senate

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2024

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Reverend Jeff Simpson, Associate Pastor, Church of the Advent, Washington, DC.

### PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let's pray together.

Almighty God, we give You thanks for this new day and for giving us every good gift we have, including our freedom, our communities, our families, and life itself. We thank You that You have brought these men and women here today to work for the common good of our great Nation.

We pray that You would grant them wisdom to navigate the complex issues they face. We pray that You would grant them patience to understand one another amid their differences. We pray that You would grant them courage; that You would strengthen them to do what is right in Your eyes. May they strive to serve our neighbors who are poor, unemployed, hungry, sick, and lonely.

We pray that You would use them to serve our whole Nation; that our government would lead with virtue; that businesses would thrive; that our schools will be filled with children who love learning; that our legal systems would be just; that our military and law enforcement would keep us safe; that artists and musicians would inspire us with beauty; that our farmers

be blessed with abundance; that our land, with all of its natural splendor and wildlife, would be cared for; and that our faith communities would embody grace and mercy; and that our families would be filled with nurture and love.

We humbly ask You for all of these things in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 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, August 1, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. LUJÁN 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 legislative clerk read the nomination of Dorothy Camille Shea, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this is the last day before our August work period and so I have a lot of topics to cover and I will go through all of them.

• 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 are going to talk about the tax bill we are doing today. We are going to talk about the Supreme Court and immunity to the President. We are going to talk about AI and what has been accomplished there. And KOSA and COPPA, we are going to talk about that. And last but not least, I have to talk about and I will talk about the Veterans' Administration and our hospital, the Northport hospital, on Long Island.

**TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND WORKERS ACT OF 2024**

Mr. President, today, the Senate has a chance to move forward on the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act.

Democrats are ready to vote yes to advance bipartisan legislation today. The question is, Will Senate Republicans join us to give Americans a tax break or will they stand in the way? The tax bill passed the House with an overwhelming vote of 357 to 70. It won majorities of both parties. It was led in the House by the Republican chair of Ways and Means, Congressman SMITH, hardly a liberal. So we know this is a good and broadly bipartisan bill. For people who say that this is not bipartisan, go look at the House.

Everyone in Congress is on board except Senate Republicans. Unfortunately, it seems like Senate Republicans plan to vote no today. Even House Republicans managed to unite long enough to pass this bill.

With great respect to Senate Republicans, it is never a good sign to be more obstructionist than Republicans in the House.

Senate Republicans love to talk about how they are the party of family and business, so it is very odd to see them come out so aggressively against expanding the child tax credit and rewarding businesses with the R&D tax credit. But that seems to be what they are doing.

Instead of jumping at the opportunity to get this tax bill done, some Senate Republicans are organizing against tax relief. You heard that right. Senate Republicans are organizing against tax relief. Some of them were passing out leaflets at their lunch yesterday smearing the bill.

Here is one of the nonsensical arguments Senate Republicans made against this tax bill: Don't you dare pass it, they said, because, God forbid, it actually helps American families and then Democrats will get some credit.

Can you believe that? Does that sound like a pro-family party? I don't think so.

Instead of focusing on the election, Republicans maybe should focus more on the fact that this bill actually helps families. If the bill becomes law, half a million kids would come out of poverty. Sixteen million kids from low-income households would see benefits increase. Business owners that invest in R&D and buy new equipment would see more money coming back to them,

leading to more jobs, good-paying jobs. And the housing crisis in America would ease—one of our biggest crises, housing costs—by expanding the low-income housing tax credit, something I deeply cared about and urged to be put in the bill. I am glad it is there. And, of course, communities devastated by natural disasters—we have seen so many of them across the country in the last few weeks—they get greater relief.

So thank you to all my colleagues who worked hard on this bill: Chairman WYDEN for his leadership, everyone on the Finance Committee as well as Senators BROWN and CASEY and BENNET and CANTWELL and HASSAN and so many others.

The ball is now in Senate Republican court. Senate Republicans can either choose bipartisanship and get this done now or they can choose partisanship and leave families hanging out to dry.

Mr. President, I just want to note, this so often has become the MO of our Republicans in the House, Senate, and the Presidency. When we do something good and strong that Americans support in a bipartisan way—that most Republicans support—they say don't pass it because it will benefit Democrats in the election.

Donald Trump has said it repeatedly on border. We have seen it recently on crypto. We have seen it on so many other issues. That is not the way to help the American people. That is not the way to govern.

**SUPREME COURT**

Mr. President, on the Supreme Court and the immunity, their awful immunity provision for Presidents, including Trump, all of us in school were taught that there are no Kings in America. There are no Kings in America.

But 1 month ago, the MAGA Supreme Court effectively placed a crown over Donald Trump's head. They ruled that the President of the United States is, in essence, above the law; that the President is immune in sweeping ways from accountability for "official acts."

One month ago, I said I would work with my colleagues on legislation to reverse the damage of the Court's bewildering ruling on immunity. Today, I am pleased to announce Senate Democrats are taking the next step.

Today, along with 33 of my Democratic colleagues, I am introducing the No Kings Act. This legislation is as simple as the name it bears. It reaffirms that Presidents do not have immunity from violations of criminal law and removes the Supreme Court's jurisdiction to hear appeals related to Presidential immunity, which the Constitution explicitly empowers Congress to do.

The MAGA Supreme Court's decision on Presidential immunity was the very antithesis of the kind of accountability our Framers envisioned. It just goes to show you what a morass the Supreme Court is in right now. They are in a mess. They are in an ethical morass and in a substantive morass.

Ethically, the MAGA Supreme Court is suffering a huge crisis of confidence with the American people because Justices accept lavish gifts, vacations, and cars from hard-right wealthy people who are then paying different groups and lawyers to lobby for what they want. And then the Justices turn around and ram through scores of hard-right decisions.

The two have been, sometimes, all too close to one another in time. Substantively, the MAGA Supreme Court is taking the rights away from Americans at every opportunity—like a woman's right to choose and others—siding with the big special interests against the average person.

And, again, the MAGA Supreme Court is undermining our Constitution and throwing out centuries of precedent by anointing Donald Trump and future Presidents as Kings above the law. And make no mistake about it, we have a very strong argument that Congress, by statute, can undo what the Supreme Court does, that it does not require a constitutional amendment.

The bottom line is this: No democracy can hope to survive if it cannot ensure accountability. And if the Supreme Court can no longer be trusted to serve as its own check on ethics or on following precedent and helping the American people, Congress must use all its tools to restore trust and accountability to the highest Court in the land.

**KOSA-COPPA**

Mr. President, 2 days ago, the Senate overwhelmingly passed two of the most important updates in decades to Federal laws protecting our kids: the Kids Online Safety Act, or KOSA, and the COPPA.

I repeat: It passed the Senate overwhelmingly. This was a good bipartisan thing; 91 votes were in its favor.

I then called on the House to take these bills up, to keep the momentum alive, to do right by the parents who worked so hard to get these bills done. But this morning, it has been reported that House Republicans will refuse to take these bills up.

I hope these reports are not accurate. Just 1 week ago, Speaker JOHNSON said he would like to get KOSA done. I hope that hasn't changed. Letting KOSA and COPPA collect dust in the House would be an awful mistake and a gut punch—a gut punch—to these brave, wonderful parents who have worked so hard to reach this point.

So let me repeat what I said earlier this week: When the House returns in the fall, KOSA and COPPA must be a priority. These parents and kids across America deserve better. I hope House Republicans change course swiftly and take KOSA and COPPA up.

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

Mr. President, now on AI, or artificial intelligence, it has been 2 months since the Bipartisan AI Working Group I formed with Senator HEINRICH, Democrat, and Senators YOUNG and ROUNDS, Republican, published our roadmap for