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

Let us pray.

Dear Lord, let this day be marked with resilience and guided by Your righteous hand. When our lawmakers are confronted by obstacles, instill unrelenting resolution inside of them to meet the challenges of the changing world. Today, give them the wisdom to turn from every thought, word, and deed that weakens instead of strengthens.

Lord, help our Senators to hunger and thirst to be people of integrity, striving to honor You with their lives. May this be a day when they serve You with gladness because Your joy has filled their hearts.

Lord, all nations are Yours. Help us to trust You to rule our world.

We pray in Your merciful 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 19, 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 LEADERSHIP 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 Rose E. Jenkins, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday afternoon, to the surprise of virtually no one, Speaker JOHNSON's deeply flawed and highly partisan CR failed

by a vote of 202 to 220. The "no" votes included Democrats, Republicans, fiscal hawks, conservative ideologues, and people in between. In other words, there was broad opposition to the Speaker's partisan maneuver. It is time the Speaker moves on.

Sadly, time is not a luxury that Congress has right now. Today is September 19. The government shutdown is September 30. That is 11 days away. And instead of doing the bipartisan work everyone knows is required for avoiding a shutdown, the House Republican leadership has wasted 2 weeks—2 weeks—listening to Donald Trump's ridiculous claims on the campaign trail.

Now that their efforts have failed, House Republicans don't seem to have any plan for actually keeping the government open. So the Senate will step in. Later today, I will file cloture on a legislative vehicle that will enable us to prevent a Trump shutdown in the event that Speaker JOHNSON does not work with us in a bipartisan, bicameral manner.

Both sides are going to spend the next few days trying to figure out the best path remaining for keeping the government open. By filing today, I am giving the Senate maximum flexibility for preventing a shutdown.

Democrats and Americans don't want a Trump shutdown. I dare say most Republicans, at least in this Chamber, don't want to see a Trump shutdown. And the American people certainly don't want their elected representatives in Washington creating a shutdown for the sake of Donald Trump's ridiculous claims, when it is clear he doesn't even know how the legislative process works.

Senators are ready to work this process the right way: Democrats talking to Republicans, both sides at the negotiating table, finding a way to keep the government open without partisan hoopla.

The Speaker must choose: Either keep paying blind obeisance to Donald

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



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Trump and his ridiculous claims or work with both parties to spare the American people from a Republican shutdown.

And just a parenthetical note: How does anyone expect Donald Trump to be a President when he has such little understanding of the legislative process? He is daring the Congress to shut down. I remember he did that with Leader PELOSI and I in his office a while back. It didn't work out too well for him. Our Republican colleagues should not blindly follow Donald Trump. He doesn't know what he is doing. He doesn't have a plan, and, frankly, he doesn't know what he is talking about.

PROJECT 2025

Mr. President, now on Project 2025, later today, Senate Democrats will hold a press conference to expose Donald Trump's Project 2025 for what it actually is. Project 2025—Trump's Project 2025—is the most harmful, most unhinged, and most extreme conservative agenda in recent American history.

By now, many Americans have heard about Project 2025. And the more people learn about Trump's plan, the more they realize how disastrous it would be for our country.

I could speak about Project 2025 every morning for the remainder of the work period and still not have enough time to cover all of the nasty things hiding inside this agenda.

For middle-class families, Project 2025 will raise taxes by \$3,000. And it caters to the ultrawealthy by giving people who earn more than \$10 million a \$1.5 million tax break.

For workers, Project 2025 will undermine overtime pay, resulting in less pay for longer hours for middle-class Americans who work hard and often have to work more than 40 hours a week. As many as 4.3 million Americans will have their overtime and wage protections erode.

For our national security, Project 2025 will make us less safe by gutting Agencies charged with protecting Americans at home and around the world.

And for our border security, Project 2025 rejects the bipartisan plan we released earlier this year, the strongest bipartisan border security measure in decades. It also adopts a policy of utterly cruel mass deportations with little to no due process and even risks deporting 3 million Dreamers.

How cruel; deport 3 million Dreamers? It is in Project 2025.

And finally, Project 2025 will weaken our democracy by opening the floodgates to foreign interference and big money in politics.

And if all of that isn't enough, just yesterday, Donald Trump's running mate actually proposed going back to the days when having a preexisting condition meant you pay far more for your health insurance.

That is right. Under the Trump-Vance plan, anyone with a chronic con-

dition—or an estimated 129 million Americans—could face outrageously expensive healthcare costs.

This is all beyond sinister stuff. And while Donald Trump tries to run away from Project 2025, here is the simple truth: Donald Trump owns Project 2025 and every single one of its proposals.

Project 2025 has been led by hundreds of former Trump administration officials, chomping at the bit to get back in government and impose their horrible plans. Some of these sections were written by Trump's own Cabinet officials. And Trump himself said in his speech that the Heritage Foundation—which houses Project 2025—would “lay the groundwork and detail plans for exactly what our moment will do.”

Let me say that again. This is Donald Trump talking about the Heritage Foundation, which has created Project 2025. It would “lay the groundwork and detail plans for exactly what our moment will do.”

And the head of the Heritage Foundation said earlier this year that his goal was “institutionalizing Trumpism,” including with Project 2025.

Let me say it again: “Institutionalizing Trumpism.”

Whom are these guys fooling? Now, of course, even Trump himself is backing off, with all the criticism, because it is so far away. These rightwing ideologues want to steer America over the cliff and hurt just about every average American. And then when it becomes public what they want to do—when the public learns more of what they want to do—they try to say: Oh, well, we really didn't mean it. But we know they did.

Watch out, America. Watch out for Project 2025. It will hurt you; it will hurt your family; and it will be implemented by Donald Trump and his rightwing coterie if he gets elected.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. President, Hispanic Heritage Month. Finally, I would like to wish my colleagues and Americans everywhere a happy Hispanic Heritage Month, which began on September 15.

Hispanic Heritage Month crystalizes perfectly why we live in an amazing country. You can't tell America's story without talking about Hispanic Americans who have left their mark in every corner of life: entertainment, the sciences, the arts, food, music, sports, military, and government.

Hispanic Heritage Month is perhaps more important today than it ever has been. Some politicians are trying furiously to demonize America's diversity, but diversity is what makes America strong. It is what makes America wondrous. And that is why I have always fought to defend Dreamers and fight for comprehensive immigration reform. It is why I have worked with the Biden-Harris administration to lower insulin costs, create good-paying jobs, make our communities safer, and help Hispanic-owned businesses pick themselves up from COVID.

I will also fight for housing reform so that Latinos, like all Americans, can

become homeowners. And finally, I will fight for the Latino museum to honor the contributions of Hispanics and Latinos to our Nation and so much more. We can get it done. Si, se puede.

In the Senate, we have confirmed a historic 37 Latino judicial nominations, 22 of them women. We appointed the first Latina to serve the Federal Reserve in the Board's 109-year history, the first Hispanic judge on the 7th Circuit, and the first openly LGBTQ+ judge for District of Puerto Rico.

And speaking of Puerto Rico, there are few causes that mean more to me as a Senator than helping Puerto Ricans have greater opportunity and a better life. A few months ago, I championed legislation that would expand SNAP benefits to Puerto Ricans, who have been unjustly excluded from this program for decades. This is one reason why it is crucial we make progress on the farm bill because Puerto Ricans deserve the justice that has long been denied to them.

America's strength has always been rooted in our diversity, on our immigrant heritage, on being a home to Americans for all walks of life.

So today, I want to celebrate the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the country we call home. Without them, America as we know it would not be possible.

I yield the floor.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and proceed to the consideration of H.R. 9468, which was received from the House and is at the desk; further, that the only amendment in order to the bill be the Paul amendment No. 3289, which is at the desk; that the time until 11:30 a.m. be for debate only on the amendment and that at 11:30 a.m. the Senate vote on the amendment, with 60 affirmative votes required for adoption; further, that upon disposition of the amendment, the bill, as amended, if amended, be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, all without further intervening action or debate.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

VETERANS BENEFITS CONTINUITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 9468) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.