

year; now. You know what that means. If you live in rural America, the closest hospital to you might be hundreds of miles away. You might not be able to see a doctor. Even if you can, you are going to pay more to see the doctor.

If you are an adult with parents who live in a nursing home, what is going to happen if that nursing home closes due to budget cuts? Hundreds—hundreds—of nursing homes will close because they depend on Medicaid, which has been slashed. Most people, most average families, can't afford to take their parents in, and there is no way they could provide the same care and expertise that a nursing home could.

I have talked to long-term care centers—in Republican districts no less—where doctors and nurses and healthcare workers and parents are frustrated or worried—worried their jobs are imperiled and worried even more that their patients are imperiled. They cannot understand how Donald Trump and Republicans are so OK with cutting their funding. In short, it is a betrayal. That is what the status quo looks like under Donald Trump.

Also, let me speak to my own colleagues here in the Senate who care about this institution and who, in normal times, would love to work together with the other side to make good things happen for the country. Donald Trump and his little minion Russell Vought have made a total mockery of the congressional appropriations process. He has trampled over Congress's power of the purse. He has illegally frozen, canceled, and redirected—unilaterally misappropriated—hundreds of billions in funding.

Why the heck should the Senate vote on a budget if Russell Vought single-handedly, with Donald Trump's support, can undo it all? And that includes NIH research. It includes public broadcasting and so much else. It is all illegal. It cannot be tolerated. Why pass a budget if Russell Vought can unilaterally rescind it? Every Senator should not stand for it, including our Republican colleagues. Democrats will certainly not stand for it. Will Republicans?

Republicans cannot expect that another take-it-or-leave-it extension of government funding that fails to address healthcare costs is going to cut it for the American people. What we should do instead is move forward with our Democratic proposal to work to keep the government open, to lower people's premiums, to protect people's healthcare.

Finally, both sides should at least talk. Donald Trump does not want to talk. He has said to Republicans: "Don't even bother" to deal with Democrats. That is Donald Trump saying he—he—wants a shutdown.

You have to have two parties to pass a bill. If you say "Don't deal with Democrats," you are saying you want a shutdown. That is what Trump has said. He either doesn't know the Senate procedure, where you need 60

votes—that is obvious—or he doesn't know math, because he only has 53.

Donald Trump is saying he wants a shutdown, and Leader THUNE and Speaker JOHNSON should resist Trump's bullying. They know the only way to pass a budget is with bipartisan negotiation. In the 4 years when we Democrats had a majority, there was never a shutdown. Why? We talked to our Republican colleagues and created bipartisan proposals. We sat down and talked, which was normally what happened, except our Republican colleagues—Leader THUNE and Speaker JOHNSON—are too afraid to buck Donald Trump.

Well, the American people won't stand for Donald Trump's status quo. They don't like the Republican partisanship. They expect both sides to come together and address the real needs they face, from healthcare to the cost of living. This is what Democrats offer the American people with our bill today if Senate Republicans heed their call.

#### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I must speak for another moment about the FCC.

We are in a moment of peril—dire peril—in America because yesterday Donald Trump said he intends to put a dagger through the heart of what America is about when he said that he doesn't believe in free speech, that maybe the licenses and ability to speak of people and broadcast companies that disagree with him should be taken away.

When Donald Trump says the FCC should consider revoking licenses of networks with shows and hosts who are "against me" and who "give me only bad publicity," he is talking about a dictatorship. That is what dictatorships do—they shut down anyone who has any disagreement with them. But that is what he is threatening to do today through Brendan Carr. He said:

I would think maybe their licenses should be taken away. It will be up to Brendan Carr.

That is censorship. It is disgusting. It is a violation of the First Amendment. What Trump is doing comes right out of Xi and Putin's playbook. He is launching in broad daylight a naked attack on perhaps the most basic freedom in America: free speech. For hundreds of years, America has been proud to be a land of free speech, and Donald Trump is the first President who really attempts to put a dagger through its heart.

Where are our Republican colleagues? They know this is wrong. Silence; obedience to Donald Trump's destruction of free speech and democracy. He is launching in broad daylight an attack on one of the most basic freedoms in America, which is free speech, and it is being challenged through his flack at the FCC, Brendan Carr, who coerced ABC to suspend Jimmy Kimmel for his

comments that he or Trump didn't like.

Donald Trump's attack on free speech is despicable. It is anti-American. It is the road to dictatorship. And it is not the first time Donald Trump has done this. He is launching investigations into companies to bully them into submission. And it is not just late-night talk show hosts; Donald Trump and MAGA have said they will try to silence others.

When Carr goes on a podcast and says the FCC "can do this the easy way or the hard way" to make sure Kimmel is silenced, that is an attack on every single media outlet, whether it is traditional or digital. That is an attack on every single American.

So today I am, with Senators MARKEY and LUJÁN, calling on Chairman Carr to demand to know how the FCC defines "public interest" under Carr, which networks must adhere to; to ask Carr did his staff communicate—he or his staff—with Disney, ABC, or their affiliates.

We all know the murder of Charlie Kirk was abhorrent and evil, plain and simple, but it is repulsive that the Trump administration is exploiting this tragic death as an excuse to go after anyone they don't like politically, including by silencing free speech.

While Donald Trump tries to take away people's freedoms, Republicans in Congress are bowing in obeisance to his throne because they are too scared to stand up to him. They know he will cast retribution on them, as he has on networks and people in the press.

In conclusion, freedom is as fundamental as it gets in America. Everyone knows that. Republicans know that. Conservatives know that. For the longest time, everyone—Ronald Reagan on down—has defended free speech. But if you lose freedom of speech, it is the road to autocracy.

Mr. Carr is one of the greatest threats to free speech in American history. He must resign immediately, and if not, Trump should fire him.

I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026—Continued

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the pending business.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2296) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military

personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Wicker-Reed amendment modified No. 3748, in the nature of a substitute.

Wicker (for Ernst) amendment No. 3427 (to amendment No. 3748), to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on casualty assistance and long-term care programs.

Thune amendment No. 3863 (to amendment No. 3427), relating to the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3864 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 3748), relating to the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3865 (to amendment No. 3864), relating to the enactment date.

Motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Thune amendment No. 3866, relating to the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3867 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 3866), relating to the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3868 (to amendment No. 3867), relating to the enactment date.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

S. 2296

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, 2 years ago, when the government was on the brink of a shutdown, the then-majority leader, now-minority leader, Senator SCHUMER of New York, wrote a letter to his colleagues—I have it here—dated September 2023. It says:

Dear Colleague.

In his letter, Senator SCHUMER wrote:

We cannot afford . . . brinkmanship or hostage-taking.

He went on to say:

The only way to avoid a shutdown is through bipartisanship.

Well, I am happy to announce that just in the last hour, the House of Representatives passed, in a bipartisan vote, a continuing resolution to keep the government funded.

That is not what we are seeing today, though, from the minority leader. Senator SCHUMER has written this time not a "Dear Colleague" letter but the biggest ransom note in American history.

Mr. SCHUMER. Would my colleague yield for a question?

Mr. BARRASSO. Regular order? No.

One trillion dollars in ransom for 4 weeks of keeping the government open. It is filled with partisan, political poison pills that will never become law.

What we are seeing today from the minority leader is exactly what he once condemned. He is holding the American people hostage. What he is promoting today is not a spending bill; it is a shakedown—the Schumer shakedown, the Schumer strategy to lead to a Schumer shutdown.

Let me break down this ransom note line by line because the American people deserve to know what the Democrats are demanding. Their \$1 trillion demand includes \$500 billion to continue the COVID-era spending spree. We were originally told that the COVID bonus subsidies would be temporary. Democrats now want to turn them into a permanent government giveaway. This is in spite of the fact that the COVID crisis ended years ago.

The Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman was right. He said:

Nothing is more permanent than a temporary government program.

Additionally, Democrats want to weaken Medicaid for those who need it the most. Republicans' comprehensive economic plan strengthens Medicaid. We reduce waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption. Democrats want to kill those reforms. They want to repeal the entire healthcare section of the law.

Democrats would rather shut down the government than stop States from paying for free healthcare for illegal immigrants. Democrats want to continue to give Medicaid to able-bodied, working-age adults who refuse to work. Democrats are holding America hostage for people who broke our laws and for people who refuse to get jobs.

Now let's talk about money that the Democrats want to send overseas. This bill spends billions of dollars on radical climate projects: Zimbabwe, \$13 million for "civic engagement"; Honduras, \$25 million for "climate resilience"; West Africa, \$40 million for "low-emissions development." Let that sink in. Republicans want to keep the government open, pay our troops here at home. Democrats would rather fund climate projects overseas and are willing to shut down the government if we are not willing to do that.

Democrats are willfully wasting billions of hard-working Americans' tax dollars on their liberal fantasies. Republicans are proposing 7 weeks of clean funding. It is what passed the House in a bipartisan way just an hour ago, and Democrats instead are demanding seven figures for foreign slush funds.

Mr. President, let me point out that Democrats do make some spending cuts. Regrettably, those cuts target our Nation's most vulnerable hospitals in rural communities. Democrats want to eliminate the \$50 billion Rural Hospital Stabilization Fund. It is something we just passed earlier this year—passed it this summer. It is something that I hear about from our hospitals at home and how grateful they are. And I am a doctor. I practiced medicine in my home State of Wyoming for more than 20 years. I was president of the Wyoming Medical Society. I know the stresses and strains on rural hospitals, and that is why this was passed.

Mr. President, your home State of West Virginia experiences exactly the same thing. We both know how many small community hospitals need the kind of help that we were able to pass that the Democrats now want to strip away. With rural hospitals under significant stress, the last thing Congress should do is remove the funds designated to help keep them open, and they want to instead spend this money in foreign countries. That is what the Democrats want to do.

Let me return to Senator SCHUMER's own words:

We cannot afford . . . brinkmanship or hostage-taking.

Yet hostage-taking is exactly what he is doing today.

Senator SCHUMER is demanding a trillion dollars in new spending for keeping the government open 4 weeks. He is sending billions of dollars to foreign countries but slashing billions of dollars for rural hospitals in our own country; subsidizing free healthcare for people who refuse to get jobs but threatening the paychecks of the people whose job it is to keep our Nation safe.

He is demanding a far-left wish list or else he wants to shut down the government. That is the Democrat strategy today; make no mistake. Republicans will hold Democrats accountable for supporting this dangerous political theater.

The good news is Congress can keep the government open and functioning without hostage-taking and without shakedowns. Republicans' clean continuing bipartisan resolution that just passed the House with a bipartisan vote is ready to go; 7 weeks long, it gives Republicans and Democrats on the Appropriations Committee the time they need to finish their work.

I see the chairman of the Appropriations Committee and ranking member on the floor right now.

The House passed it today, bipartisan; President says he will sign it. Senate Democrats voted for similar bills not once, not twice, but 13 times when Joe Biden was President. There is only one person standing in the way of keeping the government open. That is the Minority Leader.

He has said it himself: We cannot afford hostage-taking. I would say to the Minority Leader: Stop holding the government hostage; stop holding the American people hostage; get rid of the ransom note; keep the government open. The American people deserve better than a trillion-dollar shakedown.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I would just make one point to my good friend from Wyoming. When we were in the majority for 4 years, there was not a shutdown—not one. Why? Because we did what you are supposed to do: talk in a bipartisan negotiation and each side has input.

The reason we are having a shutdown now is you and your leadership refuse to talk to Democrats and have input and want only your imprimatur on the bill, which we believe hurts Americans badly with healthcare.

Never a shutdown when we were in leadership. You can quote all the things you want. We did it the right way. You are not.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, in just a short bit, we are going to vote on a bill that Democrats introduced earlier this week that does a couple of critical things. First of all, it prevents a needless shutdown at the end of this month,

and it gives us more time to hammer out the funding bills that help get families by and ensure Congress—not Donald Trump or Russ Vought—decides how our taxpayer dollars are spent.

Secondly, this bill takes critical steps to prevent Russ Vought from stealing money from cancer research or Trump deciding unilaterally he is going to cut off funding he doesn't like.

Third, it provides critical new security resources to keep Federal officials safe and help ensure political violence does not tear further at the fabric of our democracy.

And, fourth, this bill addresses the looming Republican healthcare crisis to stop healthcare costs from rocketing up and our rural hospitals from shutting down. These are four priorities that I think every single Member of Congress should be able to agree with.

I am afraid that while some of my Republican colleagues say they want to address the healthcare tax credits, they are quick to caveat that now is not the right time. Republican leaders said as much.

So I have to ask: When is the time? It seems to me the time is now. When Republicans say they don't want to talk about healthcare yet, what they are saying is, they don't want to talk about it until a lot of the damage has been done because premium hikes are already being announced and people will receive letters in the mail with their new rates next month.

So the time to act, really, is now. The clock is ticking, but Republicans don't want to even have a conversation about that yet. Well, Democrats are forcing a conversation. Our bill will not only avoid a government shutdown and give us time to continue working on our funding bills, it would address the imminent healthcare crisis, preventing premiums from skyrocketing by extending healthcare tax credits before those higher premiums kick in and are locked in and reversing Republicans' massive Medicaid cuts that will kick millions off of their insurance and shutter hospitals.

This vote will show America who seriously wants to help our families afford healthcare and keep those hospitals open and who is content to let those costs skyrocket and hospitals to close.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting yes on our bill that we would introduce this week on the Democrat side so we can act with the urgency this moment requires.

Let me be clear: Do I strongly urge my Republican colleagues to join me in voting for this funding bill that we introduced? Absolutely. But if they choose not to, the Senate will move to consideration of the partisan House-passed CR.

I want to be crystal clear here. There was and still is, in fact, a path to preventing a shutdown, and it starts with the Republican leadership finally sitting down with our Democratic leadership, something they have refused, for literally weeks, to do.

You want Democratic votes on a funding bill? A good place to start is by actually trying to win those votes. But instead of so much as talking to Democrats about how to stop millions of Americans from losing their healthcare or seeing their premiums double or worse, the Republican leadership has decided to follow Trump's orders, blow off Democrats, and risk a Republican shutdown.

I have had productive conversations with my fellow appropriators, but those conversations only mean so much when Republican leadership chooses to pull the rug out from under us. Four-corner negotiations were positive, but leadership has to be involved to wrap those negotiations and at least discuss healthcare.

If Republican leadership refuses to even speak with our Democratic leadership, where does that leave us? Instead of meeting us at the table to hammer out a bipartisan short-term CR, advance the critical work on those bills, and kick off serious talks on healthcare, House Republicans went off alone. They released a bill that utterly fails to address priorities that are top of mind for so many families.

That is a choice Republicans have made, and it is downright callous. After all, if Republicans insist on inaction, higher premiums are going to be locked in for people across our country. That is the cost of delay.

But Republicans are, essentially, saying the American people should just accept massive price increases for healthcare. And they expect Democrats to just simply go along. And even if Republicans decide to wait until the last minute for an extension, 1.5 million Americans will still lose their healthcare.

Republicans are trying to act like just cutting one party out of those talks and then trying to demand their votes is somehow business as usual—no way; no thanks.

I will be voting no on the Republican funding bill because there is a better way here. Why not sit down with our Democratic leadership to talk about how we pass the short-term CR, how we make progress, critical progress on our full-year funding bills, and how we handle this healthcare crisis?

After all, Republicans are willing to say to the press, they want all of these things, they say it in front of the cameras. Why aren't they willing to say it in a room with Leader SCHUMER and Leader JEFFRIES? Why aren't they willing to just meet and actually start charting a course on how we move forward on that?

I think the main reason is Donald Trump. Again, he told Republicans don't even bother dealing with Democrats. Seems like Republican leaders are just afraid to cross the aisle and have a simple meeting, a mere conversation, if it risks losing Donald Trump.

That is wrong, and it is dangerous because with rare exception, just about

every bill we pass here in the Senate takes 60 votes. So to get things done for our families back home, Republicans need to work with Democrats. And if Republican leadership cannot find the courage to do that on what should be low-hanging fruit here, if they can't sit down with our Democratic leadership to talk about a short-term CR, what does that mean for the work we have been doing on our full-year spending bills? What does it mean for extending those healthcare tax credits? And what does it mean for any of the other challenging issues we would all like to work together on to address?

It is deeply disappointing to me that the Republican leaders have chosen to go down the partisan route we are here on today. But there is still time to do the right thing. They should come to the table.

I am a "no" on the Republican CR, but my colleagues should know I am committed to this process. After all, there is so much at stake in all of our annual funding bills. It matters tremendously that we fully fund WIC to make sure moms and babies don't go hungry; it is hugely important that we fund the VA to make sure our veterans are getting the quality of care we promised them when they come home.

Families in my State and across the country are counting on us here in Congress to protect funding for childcare and Head Start so our kids can learn and grow. There are students and parents at school districts across America counting on us here in Congress to protect funding for kids with disabilities; for schools in some of our poorest communities.

There are patients everywhere in the country who are desperately counting on us to do our job to federally fund cancer research in hopes of a cure or for a clinical trial that might give them some more time with their loved ones.

I could go on—funding to replace lead pipes or to treat opioid addiction. The work we do in our Appropriations Committee matters. The outcomes that this Congress dictates over how we spend taxpayer dollars matter. It is hugely consequential for millions of Americans, and I am so glad that there is strong bipartisan support for so many of those programs because when we can all agree on something good, that is a win for all of our constituents.

So, yes, I want us to find a way forward so we can keep working on our full-year spending bills that will actually help people. We have already passed eight of those spending bills out of our committee; three on the floor that we are working right now really hard to conference so they can be signed into law.

These are all bills that help people and solve problems. None of us should want to hand the pen over to Russ Vought and give him or Trump or anyone else at the White House more power of our Federal spending. That is

what another year-long continuing resolution would do.

There is a better path forward. I would ask Republican leadership: Simply come to the table. Compromise is a very basic principle. Every American understands it. And if Republicans don't bother working with the Democrats just because Donald Trump told them to, this would be a Republican shutdown.

The Republicans control all of government: the House, the Senate, the White House. The American people know who will be to blame. I ask that we work to move forward to choose a different path, work together and avert this shutdown.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to urge passage of the funding bill that was approved by the House of Representatives earlier today. Now, let's be clear on what this bill is and what it is not.

It is a stopgap measure, which is known as a continuing resolution or often called a CR. It is straightforward. It continues current funding levels for government until November 21. That gives Congress the time that we need to continue our work on the annual appropriations bills.

It is not a yearlong CR. Republicans do not want a yearlong CR. The reason we are operating under a yearlong CR for the first time in history for the Department of Defense, which is causing tremendous difficulties, is because the then-majority leader Senator SCHUMER refused to bring a single appropriations bill to the Senate floor in the last Congress despite the hard and bipartisan work of the Senate Appropriations Committee. So let's be clear on that.

Once again, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have worked hard over the last several months to advance annual appropriations bills and carry out our constitutional responsibility of the power of the purse.

Last month, the full Senate passed with overwhelming bipartisan support our first package of fiscal year 2026 annual appropriations bills. They included the bills funding agriculture and the FDA; military construction and veterans affairs; and the legislative branch.

This marked the first time since 2018—7 years ago—that the Senate approved annual appropriations bills before the August home State work period.

In the intervening weeks, the leaders of the relevant Senate subcommittees have been working very hard with their House counterparts on both sides of the aisle to reconcile the differences between the House and the Senate bills.

We hope to have final versions of these three bills soon that can be considered in both Chambers, enacted, and sent to the President for his signature.

In addition, Majority Leader Thune has already expressed a willingness, in-

deed a commitment, to bring another package of fiscal year 2026 appropriations bills to the Senate floor next month.

This is a welcome change from the last year when then-majority leader Senator SCHUMER refused to bring a single one of the 12 annual appropriations bills to the Senate floor for consideration. Those are the facts.

The result of that obstruction was a full-year continuing resolution for fiscal year 2025 and a delayed start to our current appropriations process.

To my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who want to avoid a similar fate for fiscal year 2026, I say, work with us to complete the annual funding bills, just as we are doing in committee. Pass this clean CR, which has no poison pills, so that we can prevent disruptions to vital programs on which the American people rely while Congress completes its work on the annual funding bills. It should be that simple.

Government shutdowns have negative consequences across government and across the Nation. They require certain government employees such as Border Patrol agents, members of our military and Coast Guard, TSA screeners, and air traffic controllers, among others, to report to work with no certainty on when they will next receive their paycheck.

Shutdowns put critical investments in our national defense on hold, training exercises could be limited, which could hurt our Nation's readiness. New programs would be paused, delaying new capabilities from getting to our warfighters.

Under a shutdown, Federal funding for important national priorities would be halted, including grants to State and local law enforcement and other first responders, new funding and support for the Head Start Program and child welfare services, as well as formula grants to States that support older Americans and individuals with disabilities.

Most day-to-day operations at our national parks would cease. The first week of October is usually peak foliage in Downeast Maine. It is a time when visitors flock to Acadia National Park in Maine—the crown jewel of Maine. In previous shutdowns, park personnel were kept to a minimum. Visitor service centers were closed. Restrooms were not maintained. Trails were not cleared. All of this affects the visitor experience and has a ripple effect, harming our local small businesses when tourists decide to cancel their reservations.

Instead of supporting a clean CR to prevent a government shutdown, congressional Democrats, sadly, have put forth a partisan alternative that is full of poison pill riders and significant policy changes.

This is not a clean CR just extending existing funding levels until, well, in their case, until the end of October, in the case of what I thought was an agreed-upon bipartisan date, November 21, as the House bill would do.

Most appalling—and I want to make sure that all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle realize this—the Democratic version of the continuing resolution would repeal the \$50 billion fund that I authored to help our rural hospitals that are on the brink of closure. I am sure that is a problem in the Presiding Officer's State as well.

In Maine, we have already seen one hospital closure this year, and this fund is vital to other rural hospitals across the State and across the Nation that are struggling to stay afloat and provide essential healthcare to their communities.

Now, I support extending the enhanced premium tax credit for health insurance, but unlike appropriations, that issue does not have a September 30 deadline. It should be a priority for us to take up before the end of the year because, as has been mentioned by the vice chair, insurance bureaus across this country have approved substantial rate increases—24 percent in the State of Maine—so we do need to act. But that is a significant policy change, and the deadline is not September 30.

I urge my colleagues to abandon this brinksmanship that does not serve the American people well, that is unworthy of this Senate, and adopt this straightforward bill sent to us by the House, which the President is willing to sign into law without any further delay and which will avoid a completely unnecessary and harmful shutdown of government.

This would allow us the time to complete the fiscal year 2026 appropriations process and continue our work to find a path forward on the enhanced premium tax credit.

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. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent the quorum call be suspended.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2882 AND H.R. 5371

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that if either of the votes on S. 2882 and H.R. 5371 fail of passage, it be in order for the two leaders to enter motions to reconsider without being on the prevailing side; further, that third readings with respect to the previous order be vitiated and that both bills be considered read a second time and immediately placed on the calendar.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask that the Senate execute the order from September 18, with respect to S. 2882 and H.R. 5371.

# CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS AND OTHER MATTERS ACT, 2026

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the bill, S. 2882, is considered read a second time.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2882) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

## VOTE ON S. 2882

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 527 Leg.]

## YEAS—47

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallago	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	

## NAYS—45

Barrasso	Graham	Moran
Boozman	Grassley	Moreno
Britt	Hagerty	Murkowski
Budd	Hawley	Paul
Capito	Hoeven	Ricketts
Collins	Husted	Risch
Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cotton	Justice	Schmitt
Cramer	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Crapo	Lankford	Sheehy
Cruz	Lummis	Thune
Curtis	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	McCormick	Wicker
Fischer	Moody	Young

## NOT VOTING—8

Banks	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Blackburn	Lee	Sullivan
Cassidy	Mullin	

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 47, and the nays are 45.

The 60-vote threshold having not been achieved, the bill is not passed.

The bill (S. 2882) was rejected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

## ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that following the vote on passage of H.R. 5371, the cloture motion filed during yesterday's session of the Senate on Executive Calendar No. 410 ripen immediately; further, I ask that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Waltz nomination be waived; and that if cloture is invoked, all debate time be expired and the Senate vote immediately on confirmation of the nomination; finally, that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

I ask unanimous consent that these votes be 10-minute votes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

## CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, H.R. 5371 is considered read the first and second time.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5371) making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the bill is considered read a third time.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

## VOTE ON H.R. 5371

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The result was announced—yeas 44, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 528 Leg.]

## YEAS—44

Barrasso	Britt	Capito
Boozman	Budd	Collins

Cornyn	Hawley	Moreno
Cotton	Hoeven	Ricketts
Cramer	Husted	Risch
Crapo	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cruz	Justice	Schmitt
Curtis	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Daines	Lankford	Sheehy
Ernst	Lummis	Thune
Fetterman	Marshall	Tillis
Fischer	McConnell	Tuberville
Graham	McCormick	Wicker
Grassley	Moody	Young
Hagerty	Moran	

## NAYS—48

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Reed
Baldwin	Kaine	Rosen
Bennet	Kelly	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kim	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	King	Schiff
Booker	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Lujan	Shaheen
Coons	Markey	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Smith
Duckworth	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Gallago	Murray	Warnock
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Warren
Hassan	Padilla	Welch
Heinrich	Paul	Whitehouse
Hickenlooper	Peters	Wyden

## NOT VOTING—8

Banks	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Blackburn	Lee	Sullivan
Cassidy	Mullin	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MOODY). On this vote, the yeas are 44, the nays are 48. The 60-vote threshold having not been achieved, the bill is not passed.

The bill (H.R. 5371) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

## MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I enter a motion to reconsider passage of H.R. 5371.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

The Democratic leader.

## MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I enter a motion to reconsider with respect to the failed vote on S. 2882.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

## CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 410, Michael G. Waltz, of Florida, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the Rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

John Thune, John Boozman, Tim Sheehy, James Lankford, Shelley Moore Capito, Pete Ricketts, Markwayne Mullin, Tommy Tuberville, Rick Scott of Florida, James E. Risch, Bernie Moreno, Tom Cotton, Ted Budd, David McCormick, John R. Curtis, Mike Rounds, Jon A. Husted.